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No. 66,043

MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 1997

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## THE TIMES



TODAY

## G.I. PAIN

Our literary  
editor  
survives an  
army assault  
course

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10P

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10P



## Mary Shelley's lost children's story found in Italian palazzo

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN SAN MARCELLO PISTOENSE

A LONG-LOST story for children by Mary Shelley, the author of *Frankenstein*, has been discovered in the private archives of an Italian family in their palazzo in the Tuscan hills, where it has lain unread and unnoticed for more than 150 years.

The story, entitled *Maurice, or the Fisher's Cot* consists of 39 closely written pages in Mary Shelley's handwriting. Set on the Devon coast near Torquay, it is dated 1820 and was found in a wooden chest in a neglected box room by Cristina Dazzi and her husband, Andrea, who is

descended from a member of the Shelleys' Italian circle.

The manuscript has been authenticated by two experts: Claire Tomalin, the author and co-organiser of a new London exhibition devoted to Shelley and her mother, the early feminist Mary Wollstonecraft; and Catherine Payling, curator of the Keats-Shelley Memorial House in Rome.

Mrs Tomalin, author of *Shelley and his World* and *The Life and Death of Mary Wollstonecraft*, described it as "a very exciting find. Scholars have quite wrongly assumed the story to be lost." Ms Payling said the story was mentioned in Mary Shelley's journal, but had

never been found. "The discovery adds greatly to our understanding of Mary Shelley's mind and imagination," she said.

The story was written for Laura, known as Lauretta (or Lauretta), the 11-year-old daughter of Lady Mountcashel, a close friend of Mary and her husband, the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, during their exile in Italy in the early 19th century. Lady Mountcashel — who as a girl had been taught by Mary Wollstonecraft — was also in exile at the time, having separated from her Irish husband and eloped with her lover, George Tigne, settling in Tuscany under the name "Mrs Mason". An

entry in Mary Shelley's journal for 10 August 1820 — just before her 23rd birthday — reads: "Write a story for Lauretta. Walk in the mountains ... The weather is warm and delightful."

She did not name the story, but Mrs Tomalin and Ms Payling said the evidence was "overwhelming" that the reference was to *Maurice*. Mrs Tomalin said that Mary Shelley had shown *Maurice* to her father, William Godwin, the philosopher and publisher, but he considered it "too short for publication". The handwriting is identical to that of manuscripts by Mary Shelley brought from the Keats-Shelley Museum in Rome for comparison.

provenance is impeccable," Ms Payling said.

Written two years after the publication of *Frankenstein*, the story is a sentimental morality tale about a boy who runs away from his presumed parents, is adopted by an old fisherman and lives in a cottage — the "cottage of the sublime" — on the coast near Torquay.

Laura was one of Lady Mountcashel's two daughters by Tigne. Perhaps inspired by the Shelleys, she later wrote novels under her married name, Sara Tardy.

Claire Tomalin, page 3



ASHLEY COOMBES

## Iraq prepares to fire on US spy planes

By TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

FEARS of a military conflict in the Gulf grew last night after Baghdad announced that its anti-aircraft systems were on alert to shoot down American U2 spy planes that are set to resume surveillance flights over Iraq today.

Baghdad has ordered a maximum state of alert for all military units, all military leave has been cancelled, and all commanders have been told to expect an attack.

President Clinton issued America's strongest threat yet to Iraq's President Saddam Hussein, warning that the international community would take strong and unambiguous action if Baghdad failed to comply with United Nations resolutions over weapons inspections.

He also said that any attempt to shoot down U2 planes would be a "big mistake". Madeline Albright, the Secretary of State, and Samuel Berger, the National Security Adviser, said any attack on the spy planes would be viewed as an attack on the international community but could result in a unilateral strike by the United States.

"I think that Saddam Hussein needs to understand that this is a serious business," Mr Clinton said yesterday. "This is not just the President of the United States; the American people feel this way. And it's not just the American people, it's the world community ... He will comply eventually ... it will not be without consequences if he does not comply."

In London the Foreign Office reiterated that no option had been ruled out, although it refused to be drawn on a

Clinton: eventually  
Saddam will comply

report that plans had been drawn up for Tornado jets to take part in a joint strike with US forces. Tony Blair has written to Mr Clinton offering Britain's full backing for a united front against Iraq.

In a transparent attempt to dictate terms and spin out the confrontation, Iraq urged the UN to postpone the U2 flights for a second time, claiming this was necessary to give diplomacy a chance and prevent the crisis from escalating.

Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy Prime Minister, arrives in New York today, hoping the UN Security Council will give him the chance to defend his country's decision to expel American arms experts. UN inspection teams were turned back for a seventh day yesterday because they included Americans.

Iraqi forces were reported to be dispersing across the country to evade attack. A leading Iraqi opposition group said tanks of the Iraqi Army and

elite Republican Guard were being split into units of no more than four tanks each, with some being hidden in civilian areas, while ammunition was being stored in schools, industrial facilities and food storage warehouses.

Marshal Khalidoun Kattab Bakr, the Iraqi Air Force commander, said: "Our heroic eagles are on full alert to confront any aggression or any fresh stupidity the American administration may commit against magnificent Iraq."

He added: "They will be vanquished. God willing."

Iraqi newspapers accused Richard Butler, and Australian and the UN's chief weapons inspector, of siding with the US and ordering today's U2 flight in the hope of triggering a military confrontation.

The U2 spy plane flies at more than 65,000 ft but Iraq's arsenal contains three types of surface-to-air missile that could reach such heights.

These are the SA-2, which can reach 98,000 ft, the SA-3, which reaches 65,000 ft and the more modern SA-6 which reaches 79,000 ft.

It is expected that the U2s will be escorted by a large protection force including airborne warning and communications systems, specialist electronic warfare aircraft to confuse Iraqi radar, aircraft carrying high speed anti-radiation missiles, fighters and search and rescue planes.

Iraqi anti-aircraft positions could be targeted simply if they locked their radar on to a US plane, which would be seen as a sufficient threat.

Arab reaction, page 13

## New channel rolls out

THE BBC yesterday launched a 24-hour television, rolling news channel, costing licence payers £30 million a year but with only a limited audience.

By day, News 24 is accessible only on cable. At night, it is available on BBC1 between the end of transmissions and the start of breakfast programmes. Executives have

been accused of wasting resources on a service not wanted by the public and diverting money away from flagship news programmes.

Staff working on the channel said they were bitter about being asked to work longer hours and more weekends without receiving any extra pay.

Page 2

cutting drastically the time she would have to serve in prison.

Second degree murder carries a mandatory life sentence, with eligibility for parole after 15 years. Under Massachusetts law, the offence of manslaughter carries a maximum jail sentence of 20 years, with no minimum laid down.

If her charge is reduced, the 19-year-old nanny from Elton, near Chester, is likely to serve anything between two to five years in prison, with an earlier release dependent on good behaviour.

Lawyers have dismissed as "fanciful" reports in the British media that she could be set free within days of her

charge being reduced. If Woodward's conviction of second degree murder is not altered by the judge, she could find herself in prison for at least 15 years.

A lawyer close to the defence team said: "People have been saying that just because she would be eligible for parole after 15 years that she will actually get out then. This just not true. In Massachusetts, hardly 5 per cent of all murder convicts get paroled at their first hearing."

As they were awaiting the judge's ruling, Woodward's parents last night thanked their village for its work in galvanising the massive campaign to overturn her conviction.

## Brown takes first step towards joining EMU

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND PHILIP BASSETT

GORDON BROWN will today announce the first practical steps towards Britain joining a single European currency with the creation of a committee to oversee the changeover from sterling.

His announcement will come as the Chancellor does battle with William Hague, the Conservative leader, to win the support of the business community over their sharply differing views on Europe. Both men are to address the Confederation of British Industry conference in Birmingham.

The Government is taking heart from a survey published yesterday by the CBI showing that 72 per cent of its members favour a single currency. But, with some leading CBI members pouring scorn on the survey's validity, it emerged that the confederation may conduct its own wider referendum on the issue.

Mr Hague will arrive at the

conference bolstered by the support of the chairman of 13 blue-chip companies who, in a letter to *The Times* today, argue that British business, far from supporting a single currency, is as divided as politicians.

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The Government is taking

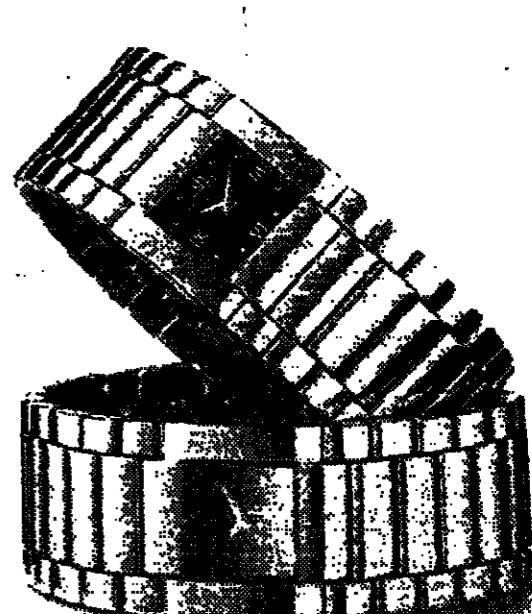


"Let's have an EMU update — that should cure the insomnia"

Continued on page 2, col 5

Leading article and Letters, page 23

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## Experts say judge will not free Woodward

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

A JUDGE in Massachusetts is expected to deliver his verdict today on the fate of Louise Woodward, the British woman convicted by a jury ten days ago of the murder of eight-month-old Matthew Eappen.

Legal experts say that Judge B. Zobel, of the Middlesex County Superior Court, will "almost certainly" set Woodward free as he was asked to do by her lawyers last week in a motion challenging the jury's verdict. Observers have predicted that the judge will reduce the charges against Woodward to manslaughter, thereby

reducing her sentence. If Woodward's conviction of second degree murder is not altered by the judge, she could find herself in prison for at least 15 years.

A lawyer close to the defence team said: "People have been saying that just because she would be eligible for parole after 15 years that she will actually get out then. This just not true. In Massachusetts, hardly 5 per cent of all murder convicts get paroled at their first hearing."

As they were awaiting the judge's

ruling, Woodward's parents last night thanked their village for its work in galvanising the massive campaign to overturn her conviction.

Gary and Sue Woodward sent a televised message from America to their neighbours in Elton, watching in the village pub that the support was keeping their daughter going, and said they would be bringing her home.

"She does not belong in America, she has not done anything wrong," Mrs Woodward said. The couple said they had been "overwhelmed" by news of the level of support.

One of the campaigners said the issue had transformed the community. "It is not a village, it is a family," the woman said.

Photograph, page 26



Adams in  
claim for  
access to  
Commons  
facilities

NEWS

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 1997

NEWS 3

# 'Maurice' is our link with Shelley

PETER NICHOLS

Claire Tomalin ponders how a long-lost children's story adds to a chain that brings her closer to the creator of Frankenstein

RETURNING from abroad ten days ago I found in the long loop of faxes delivered during my absence one from Italy. It was from Signora Cristina Dazzi, quite unknown to me, telling me she thought she had come upon a "novel autograph unpublished by Mary Shelley".

She gave its title (*Maurice or the Fisher's Cot*), described it as "a little book of a few pages, sewed with a string and covered by a thicker paper, inside the cover the words 'alla Signora Shelley', perhaps it was a paper bundle piece which Mary used to sew the little leaves and at the top of the first page: 'For Laurette from her friend Mrs Shelley'". She mentioned too that her husband's family, the Cimis, had been close to the Shelleys in the 1820s; and she asked for my advice.

The coincidence seemed almost too good to be true. Mary Shelley has been in my mind most of this year while I have helped organize an exhibition devoted to her and her equally famous mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, which opens at the National Portrait Gallery in London on November 28. To have news at this moment of the possible discovery of a story by her, written 170 years ago and believed lost, was like a dream.

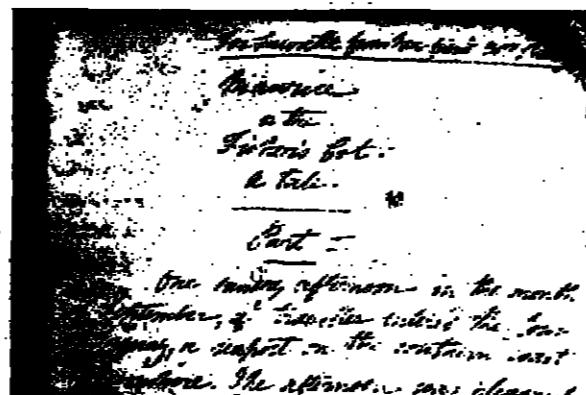
We know from Mary Shelley's own Italian journal that she did write a story "for Laurette" on August 10, 1820, and that in October 1821 she sent a copy of a story called *Maurice* to her father, William Godwin, who ran a children's publishing company. He pronounced it too short for publication, and that is the last anyone has ever heard of *Maurice* until now.

After consulting Nora Crook, editor of the eight-volume edition of Mary Shelley's novels, I decided I must go to Italy. I also spoke to Catherine Payling, curator of the Keats-Shelley Museum in Rome, who had given my name to Signora Dazzi. Signor and Signora Dazzi were understandably caught about an influx of visitors. They nevertheless greeted us with the greatest politeness, and allowed us to examine the precious booklet. I sat at a table by a window overlooking their "English garden" while they brought out other treasures and appalled when they offered me coffee on the same table on which the manuscript lay. No ink, no coffee, nothing that could mark it must come next, I insisted.

I found the manuscript exactly as Signora Dazzi had described it. It is written in ink on white paper. I could see no watermarks, although the binding made it hard to open it and be sure. There are very few crossings out. The handwriting is entirely legible and shows the characteristic letter formations of Mary Shelley.



The Dazzi palazzo where manuscript was found



The opening of the story, written for an 11-year-old girl in 1820, it had disappeared from history

The story is told in three parts and divided into two brochures, the whole work only 39 pages long. If Mary Shelley wrote it in a single day, as her journal suggests, she must have meditated it in advance, perhaps when Laurette visited her in July on the coast at Livorno.

It's significance as a gift to this particular child at this particular moment is touching and important. For Laurette was the illegitimate daughter of Lady Mountcastle, who had herself been the pupil of Mary Shelley's mother, Mary Wollstonecraft. The story is a piece in a long and fascinating chain of events linking the two families.

It began thirty years earlier, in 1788, when Mary Wollstonecraft travelled to Ireland to be governess in the family of Robert King, Earl of Kingston. His eldest daughter Margaret became her favourite pupil, and when Wollstonecraft was dismissed, she continued a clandestine correspondence with her. One time governess, and offered good advice on medical and personal matters to Mary and her step-sister Claire Clairmont, and also to Shelley. Under Mrs Mason's influence, Mary also re-read all her mother's works in the spring of 1820.

*Maurice* was at this time sunk in depression. She was only twenty-two. She had eloped with Shelley at sixteen, borne him three children, and seen them all die, most recently their adored son William. A fourth child, Percy Florence, was born in November 1819, and Mary was now nursing him, but had not emerged from her depression. Despite this, she kept up a steady programme of reading and writing. She found work a distraction, and immediately after Percy's birth wrote her novella *Marietta*, a story of father-daughter incest which remained unpublished until this century.

*Maurice* was her next story. It was, of course, intended for a child of eleven, as Laurette then was, and told with simplicity and attention to the details a child would find attractive: she wrote of flowers, of the appearance of the seashore and waves, the coral necklace belonging to a stolen child, the preparation of potions for a simple meal, the stories told by an old woman, *Goody Two Shoes* and *The Ballad of Chevy Chase*.

At the same time, there is a current of melancholy running through the story. It begins with a funeral. It concerns a child who has lost his parents, and a father who has lost his son.

Through hard years as a farm labourer and working working for a fisherman the boy Henry — who is now called Maurice — remains charming, attractive, pious and good, he says his prayers, is always merry, always at work.

We may wonder that Mary Shelley shows him as unaffected by his harsh and unloving upbringing, since one of the themes of her *Frankenstein* is that the monster is made bad by the ill-treatment he receives. We may also be surprised that the happy ending, when Maurice/Henry is recognised by his true father, shows him being sent to Eton,

a school so detested by Shelley. The end is happy for the reunited father and son, but the fisherman's cottage which the boy loved so much is shown falling into ruins. The rain gets into the roof, the walls crumble, and as the years go by it disappears altogether. So the story is coloured by Mary Shelley's melancholy even though she makes it suitable for a child.

When Laurette died, her husband, Professor Tardi of Genoa, went to live with her sister Nerina's family, the Cimis of Pistoia and it is their direct descendants who have found the story.

Before I left the Dazzis, I was taken to meet Signor Dazzi's mother. She told me she remembered Professor Tardi, who died in 1914, very well. I reflected as I said goodbye that I had shaken the hand of someone who had known the husband of little Laurette — and that Laurette knew Percy Bysshe Shelley in his *annus mirabilis*, when he was writing *The Mask of Anarchy*, the *Ode to a Skylark*, the *Letter to Maria Gisborne* and many other great works. And that she was the recipient of a clear, simple and moving story, stamped by Mary Shelley's particular sensibility, which she had the good sense to value and keep. A hundred and seventy years suddenly seemed quite a short time.



Catherine Payling, left, and Claire Tomalin study the manuscript. The story is told with simplicity and detail

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## A tale of persistence, success and nostalgia

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN SAN MARCELLO PISTOiese

"ONE Sunday afternoon in the month of September a traveller entered the town of Torquay, a seaport on the southern coast of Devonshire. The afternoon was pleasant and warm, and the waves of the sea, slightly agitated by a breeze, sparkled under the sun. The streets of the town were empty...." So begins Mary Shelley's long lost story *Maurice or the Fisher's Cot*.

The "traveller" is not named; he is, it emerges, the son of an Oxford mathematician who became a noted architect. But he has suffered a tragedy: his only son, Henry, disappeared at the age of two.

While the family were picnicking on the banks of the

river, he and his wife went for walk, leaving Henry in the care of the nanny, who fell asleep. When they returned, the boy was gone. "The traveller" has searched high and low in the intervening years.

He is reunited with his son here after asking the name of the "beautiful boy, with the sweetest voice in the whole world", who is walking behind the coffin of a local fisherman.

The boy, stolen by a childless woman but treated badly by his stepfather, had been adopted by the old fisherman, when he appeared in the town and announced he had left his parents to find work. Maurice — or Henry — leaves the rough life of the fishing community to return to

the family home near Windsor Park. He is educated at Eton, becomes successful and travels abroad, his nostalgic visits to the fisherman's cottage become more infrequent.

One day he returns to find it has decayed and fallen into the sea but, undismayed, he builds a new home, sharing it with a "poor fisherman who had fallen into great want and poverty". In memory of his boyish adventure he goes out to sea with the fisherman — although "they did not fish, for they did not like to give pain to or destroy animals". They also sit on the rocks to "watch the dancing waves", and to "talk of all the beautiful things they had seen, and would one day see".

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 1997

HOME NEWS 5

JOEL CHAN

# Twin tragedy of family bullied for being nice

A young man has been found hanged

two years after his brother was

kicked to death, reports Joanna Bale

WHEN Anthony Erskine was kicked to death outside his home by youths tormenting his family, his distraught twin brother pledged to show his respect by never celebrating their birthday again.

Ian Erskine never recovered from his twin's death, less than two years later, and just a month after his 21st birthday, he has been found dead, hanging from a tree in woodland where they once played together as boys. Police said he left a suicide note near by.

His parents, Harry and Dorothy, and their remaining children Gary, 24, and Natalie, 19, struggled to come to terms with the news yesterday in Clopton, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. At their council home a family friend said: "Ian never really got over his brother's death. They were twins and they

were close. His mother has now lost two sons. The family are very upset."

Michael Powell, 27, a neighbour, added: "They are a nice family, ideal neighbours. They do not deserve any of this."

It was the niceness of the Erskines that made them a target of a hate campaign. It is thought the perpetrators regarded the hard-working, devout Catholic family as snobs and made racist remarks to Mrs Erskine, who was born in Malta. In the months before Anthony's death, all three Erskine sons had been beaten up and their daughter verbally abused. Their hedge had been torched, their car vandalised and their home pelted with eggs, water bombs, stones and bricks.

Anthony was just over seven stone and widely regarded as a kind, gentle youth. He choked to death on his own blood after being repeatedly kicked in the face. Ian went at a press conference. Vowing never to celebrate his birthday again, he said: "Anthony and I were very close. When he went out, I would always wait up for him and he always did the same for me."

In November last year, Mark Hemmens, 21, was jailed for life for murder and

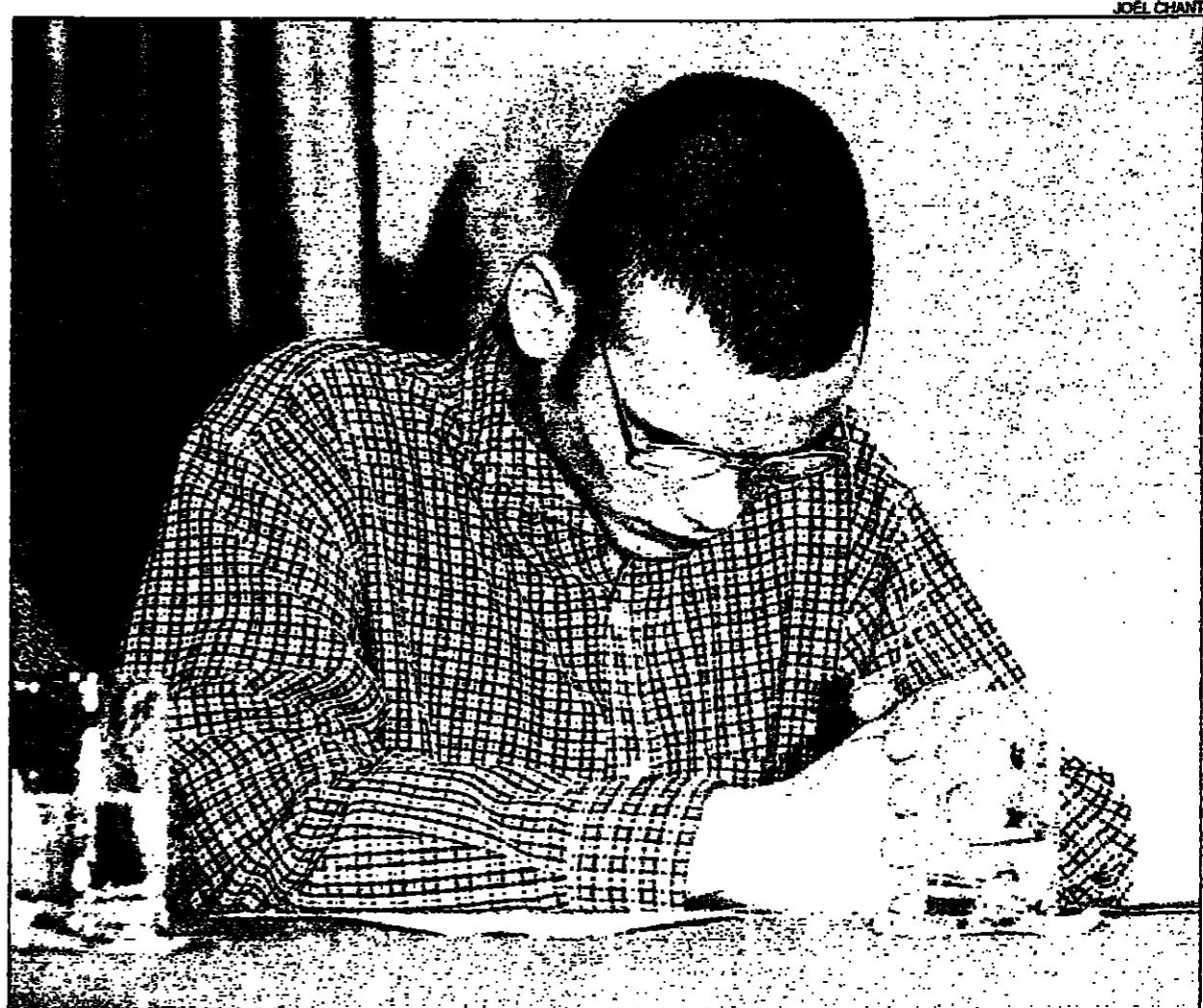
Damian Collins, 16, was ordered to be detained indefinitely. Speaking after the verdict, the twins' mother said they feared reprisals and that Ian had received death threats. "This is not the end, but only another chapter in a terrible nightmare," she said.

Ian left home to live in another part of Stratford and was planning to get married next year. On Friday night police launched a search for him after they were contacted by his family, who were worried about his uncharacteristic disappearance. In the darkness, dog handlers and a helicopter searched the Evesham Cemetery, where Anthony is buried, and woodland at Welcombe Hills, two miles from the cemetery.

The body was found on Saturday morning by a couple walking their dog in the woods. Inspector Richard Woodcock of Warwickshire Police dismissed speculation that Ian Erskine had been subject to more bullying in recent months. An inquest is expected to be opened in the next few days.



Anthony Erskine  
kicked to death



Ian Erskine after the trial of his brother's killers. His mother forecast: "This is not the end"

## Laser pen attack on policemen in siege

By PAUL WHITTAKER

A POLICE constable may suffer permanent damage to his sight after he and two other officers were hurt when a laser pen beam was aimed at their eyes during a siege.

The three constables were taken to hospital after complaining of burning eyes and headaches after the high-intensity pen was allegedly pointed at them as they surrounded a house in Totmon, near Southampton, in the early hours of Saturday.

A 25-year-old man has been charged with grievous bodily harm.

Two of the officers were treated for bruising to the front of the eye. The third officer, thought to have had a hole burnt in the rear of his eye, will require further medical treatment.

The incident comes after a string of similar attacks on police, firemen, an airline pilot, a vicar, a bus driver and the pop group Oasis.

Denis MacShane, Labour MP for Rotherham, said he would today seek an emergency statement from Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, urging the pens to be classified as dangerous weapons and confiscated by police.

## Spice Girls put girl power to the test

By CAROL MIDDLETON  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Spice Girls were about to sign a new manager last night after unceremoniously sacking the man who turned them into multimillionaires in less than a year.

Simon Fuller, known as Svengali Spice, is the man who invented the notion of girl power and orchestrated their every move.

But the all-girl band are said to be suffering from exhaustion and low morale after disappointing sales of their new album *Spiceworld*. They are said to have demanded the appointment of a manager who will take less commission, work them less hard and expose them to fewer commercial promotions. It is understood they are in discussion with First Avenue Management.

Mr Fuller, 36, was on holiday in Rome yesterday, recovering from a bad back. He will receive an estimated £10 million pay-off but is said to be bewildered by the decision.

The five decided to sack him while on safari with their mothers in South Africa. Sources said they were "exhausted, almost hysterical".

## Adopt Amy...

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Postcode:  Date of birth:  Date of birth:

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or telephone 0121 222 0222 or Farnham, 0800 000 0000  
and send to The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, Room 6  
Or please tick my:  I understand  I understand  I understand

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# Here is the news but is anybody watching us?

BY CAROL MIDGLEY  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A NEW BBC channel, costing licence payers £30 million a year, was launched on air yesterday with 24-hour news but a limited audience. By day, News 24 is accessible only on cable. At night, it is available on BBC1 between the end of normal transmissions and the start of breakfast programmes.

Executives have been accused of wasting resources on a service not wanted by the public, and diverting money away from flagship news programmes such as *Newsnight* and the *Nine O'Clock News*. As Gavin Esler and Sue Montague introduced News 24 at 6pm, resentment was still simmering among journalists and technicians. Staff working on the rolling news programme said they were bitter about being asked to work longer hours and more weekends without any extra pay, and have been holding union meetings to discuss possible industrial action. Management insisted these were problems which would be ironed out over time.

Yesterday's event, accessible to 2 million cable subscribers, marked the launch of the Corporation's first new channel since the birth of BBC2 33

HOW NEWS CHANNELS COMPARE	
<b>NEWS 24</b>	<b>CNN</b>
Launched: 1997 (Tony Hall) Key on-screen staff: Gavin Esler, Sarah Montague (ex Sky) Overseas bureaux: 42 Correspondents: Can call upon 250 worldwide but is staffed by 100 full-time journalists Reach: 1.6-2 million cable subscribers. BBC1 overnight	Launched: 1985 Key on-screen staff: Bernard Shaw Christiane Amanpour Bureaux: 32 worldwide with studios in Atlanta, London, New York, Washington and Hong Kong Correspondents: 150 Reach: Approximately 60 million households spread across 220 countries
<b>SKY NEWS</b>	
Launched: 1989. Key on-screen staff: Bob Friend, Kay Burley Bureaux: 6, also 120 Reuters news bureaux worldwide Correspondents: 150 (80-90 Sky, rest Reuters or freelance Reach: 6.4 million homes in UK but claims 70 million viewers across 40 countries	

years ago. Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, has insisted on a completely fresh look to distinguish it from other news programmes broadcast on traditional BBC channels.

The walls of the studio, which is in vision at all times, have been painted in red, blue, purple and yellow. An

orange sofa and purple carpet completes the funky effect, and presenters are allowed to appear in their shirt sleeves (with cuffs rolled back) for the first time.

The channel has suffered teething problems, and insiders say that not a single pilot programme was completed without the system crashing.

However, News 24 could in time be a formidable force. It belongs to the world's largest news gathering team, and can call upon 250 correspondents across the world — 100 more than its nearest rival CNN. It will feature 15-minute news briefings every hour, following research which suggested the public wanted news

"when they want it — not when the broadcasters choose to deliver it".

A Gallup poll found that 44 per cent of people said they would watch it daily if they could have access to it. Mr Hall said: "This is an exciting day for news. By launching this service, the BBC is meeting the growing appetite for

news on demand, providing licence fee payers with a comprehensive 24-hour news service they are entitled to expect from a public-service broadcaster."

Many BBC staff and the former war correspondent Martin Bell have openly criticised the new channel, claiming it is unnecessary. The

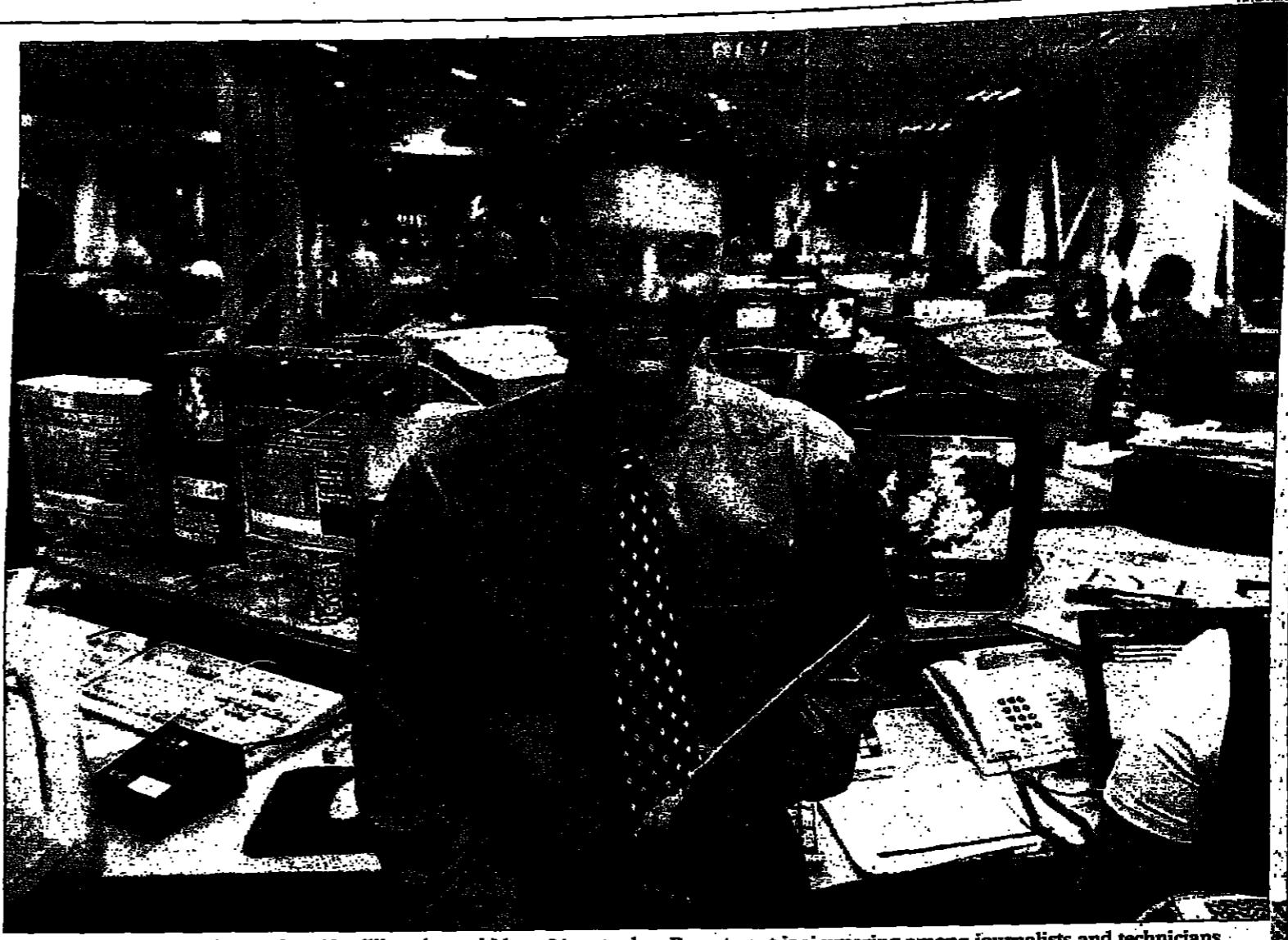
BBC's *Six O'Clock News* round-up regularly appears in its top 20 most popular programmes, averaging audiences of more than six million.

Victims of crime should be offered better protection from the press through an even tougher code of conduct than that agreed by editors in the

wake of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the Culture Secretary Chris Smith said yesterday. This could include formal arrangements to interview those affected on a "pooled" basis.

TV listings, page 51

TV listings, page 51



Gavin Esler introducing the £30 million channel News 24 yesterday. Resentment is simmering among journalists and technicians

## Shirtsleeve order as Auntie's new channel goes on the air

IT HAD been such a rush getting everything ready in time for the BBC's 24-hour news channel that poor Gavin Esler didn't even have time to put on his jacket. Other presenters and reporters were without their ties. Then it dawned that all this casualness was part of the current media vogue to dress serious news in dress-down-Friday clothing in the hope viewers might be seduced into thinking that a serious studio discussion about, say, the future of *Nation* might at any moment bring in the Spice Girls.

Esler (button-down, dark blue

shirt; striped tie) was a good choice as debut presenter — non-toff's voice with a pleasant, smiley demeanour. The studio we could see behind him and his co-presenter Sarah Montague was a jangle of colour. There were slashes of orange, blue, and yellow, and red, all over the walls, as if the BBC bosses couldn't make up their mind on the right colour and the decorators had splashed on several test patches of paint to help them towards a decision.

Also visible to viewers were the staff producing the show, which is

■ As the BBC's 24-hour news channel begins broadcasting, Joe Joseph takes off his jacket and settles down to current affairs around the clock

a disconcerting work environment for most journalists. Assiduous viewers will be able to clock how long everyone takes for lunch, and lip-readers will be able to eavesdrop on newsroom conversations:

But for a round-the-clock news channel promising to bring us "the whole picture, the whole

time", it was a jolt to discover that the first image shown on News 24 at 5.30pm was in black and white and showed someone firing a mortar, making one wonder if "24" in News 24 referred not to 24-hour news, but 1924 news. The voice was Richard Baker's.

But it was just the start of a half-hour programme promoting the

new channel. The archive war footage was followed by scenes of Robin Day and Christopher Chataway launching ITN in 1955 and a clip of the BBC's first half-hour news broadcast, presented by John Timpson on BBC2.

Then came interviews with the presenters, with Esler telling us: "We're not going to be stuffy, we're not going to be pompous, we might even be fun."

Another of the presenters — I think it was Brian Hutton — although it was hard to tell because the camera filming him was close-up to his mouth and his

right nostril — said the great thing was that they would now be able to put in all those bits of a story that normally get left out. "Oh dear."

This may be the biggest challenge facing News 24. Teething troubles seemed to have been sorted out by the time Esler came on screen at 6pm with the words, "Hello and welcome for the first day for BBC News 24. I'm Gavin Esler".

But there is only so much news in the world: The first report was about the US-Iraq showdown, with Ben Brown reporting from Amman. The second was on

the CBI's criticism of William Hague ruling out of a single currency for ten years. The third was the Queen Mother at the Cenotaph. Then all of a sudden it was time for "the headlines at 6.17", which — surprise, surprise — were Iraq, the CBI and the Queen Mother.

Anyone who has watched the BBC will be familiar with most of the faces and the tone of voice. The fact that it was so unexceptional was a triumph — although after only 90 minutes yesterday evening, the same items were already on air again.

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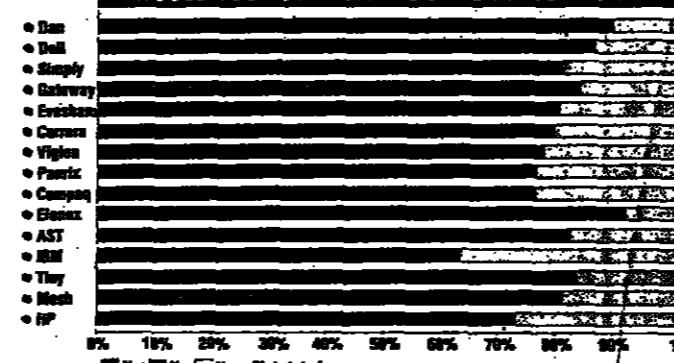
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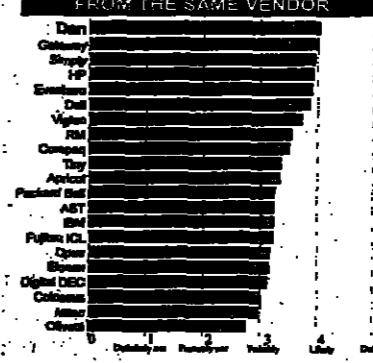
## The PC polls agree... Dan has the UK's happiest customers

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Survey result published by PC PRO, Oct 97

### LIKELIHOOD OF REPURCHASING FROM THE SAME VENDOR



Survey result published by PC Magazine, Aug 97

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# Insurance firm finds popular cars least safe

By KEVIN EASON, MOTING EDITOR

DEATHS in car crashes could be halved if buyers shunned models with poor safety records, according to Europe's most detailed study of road accidents.

A league table drawn up by scientists at Folksam, a Swedish insurance company that has studied road safety for 27 years, makes horrific reading for drivers of some of the most popular cars.

Folksam claims they are also the most dangerous. The Renault 5, Citroen AX, Honda Civic made up to 1995, Ford Fiesta (up to 1988), Nissan Micra (up to 1991), Volkswagen Polo (1994) and the current Renault Clio—all cars which have sold in huge numbers—are on Folksam's danger list.

The risk of being killed in those least safe cars is 20 times higher than models in the

## BEST

Audi 100/A6  
BMW 5-series (from 1989)  
Citroen XM  
Mercedes 200/300 (to 1985)  
Saab 9000  
Volvo 700/800/900

## WORST

Honda Civic (1988-95)  
Citroen AX  
Ford Fiesta (1976-88)  
Nissan Micra (1983-91)  
Renault 5  
Renault Clio  
VW Polo (to 1994)

safest class. The league table of 71 models shows large executive cars are 40 per cent safer than average, with clear winners including the Saab 9000, new BMW 5-series and Volvo 700 and 800 models.

Folksam's safest rated car is the Audi 100 and new A6, which scientists say, is 55 per cent safer than average. But the price of driving safely does not mean spending as much as £30,000 for the strength and security of a large car.

Folksam's scientists say that the risk of death or disabling injury doubles each time motorists move down one safety class in their league table of five categories, compiled after studying the results of more than 26,000 accidents.

Buying a car one safety category higher would halve the number of deaths caused in two-car collisions. Vauxhall's Corsa and the Peugeot 205 are in the same class by size as the AX, Clio and Fiesta but score 20 per cent better.

The Ford Escort is ranked for size with the Civic but is also one category higher. The Vauxhall Vectra and Volkswagen Passat score top marks as 40 per cent safer than average.

The Ford Mondeo and British-built Nissan Primera are in the second highest category, 20 per cent safer than average.

Anders Kullgren, Folksam's head of traffic research, said: "We are not trying to persuade people to spend large amounts of money on the biggest cars which undoubtedly have the

best safety record. But car buyers can spend their money wisely and make a judgment that they want a car with the best safety records."

The company is fitting black box recorders to more than 80,000 cars in Sweden to record the final moments of a crash to try to discover whether designers could make fundamental changes to their models.

■ Serious whiplash injuries have jumped 40 per cent, defying attempts by carmakers to make their models safer. While the introduction of stiffer, stronger seats and tough seat belts have reduced injuries to the chest, legs and head, they are causing more whiplash.

Because the occupant's body is held tight to the rigid seat on impact, the head "whips" back and forward, damaging the spine, according to Folksam.



Geoffrey Sundquist and the reindeer from the story. "Christmas was always very special to us as children," he said

# Childhood memory fathers Christmas hit

By CAROL MIDGLEY

WORLDWIDE TV audiences are to share a new festive story, because a novice writer reached back into his childhood memories to cope with the death of his brother.

The £500,000 cartoon *Father Christmas and The Missing Reindeer*, featuring the voice of David

Jason, will be on ITV in the peaktime slot after the Queen's Speech, and has been sold to 20 countries from Scandinavia to Australia.

It is based on a new book whose writer, Geoffrey Sundquist, 41, from Chorlton, Manchester, began it while mourning his brother Gerry, a film and stage actor who became a heroin user and threw himself under

a train in 1993 at the age of 38. Mr Sundquist, who works for an advertising company, said: "Christmas was always very special to us as children, so I wrote it in memory of that. There was something missing in my life, so I came upon the idea of Father Christmas finding the reindeer missing on Christmas Eve, and has to find them to get the presents

delivered. When I had written the book, I took it to HarperCollins not really knowing what to expect, but they loved it."

It has been filmed by the Manchester animation studio Cosgrove Hall, less than a mile from where the brothers grew up. Andrew Maclean, the chief executive, said: "It is a wonderful Christmas story."



oes on the air

# Wider motorways blamed for jams

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TRAFFIC congestion on a widened section of the M25 is now greater than before the improvement took place, a motoring survey suggests.

The widening of a stretch of the motorway at junction 15, west of London, was intended to curb congestion, but the survey showed that jams on the stretch were now commonplace, although last year traffic was generally free-flowing.

The survey, by Trafficmaster, which relays electronic traffic information to drivers, suggests that last year saw a 5 per cent increase in motorway congestion, the highest increase since the company began its research in

Leading article, page 23

1990. A project to link the M6 and M42 near Birmingham with a toll road is also criticised for drawing more traffic.

The Queen Elizabeth II Bridge that takes the M25 over the Thames between Essex and Kent has also brought a large increase in traffic.

In 1991, when the bridge opened, 130,000 vehicles used the stretch of motorway which suffered high congestion. The figure is already 160,000.

The motorway congestion index, which covers July to September 1997, shows that 1.2 million motorists were caught in motorway jams on an average day.

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NEWS IN BRIEF  
**Inquiry into cancer lawsuits**

One of Britain's leading cancer specialists, Dr. David G. Smith, has launched an investigation into several hospitals, demanding that doctors failed to identify breast tumours and delay treatment. Three women have started legal action against the hospital where a breast cancer was not diagnosed for three years. (See page 24)

**Lorry blockade**

Protesters have blockaded the M11 motorway near Cambridge, demanding that the government ban GM crops. The protest has started legal action against the hospital where a breast cancer was not diagnosed for three years. (See page 24)

**Yester appeal**

Yester, 17, the man who was detained for 10 days in a police cell, has been released. (See page 24)

**Body trip**

Police have arrested a man who was found dead in a car in a car park in London. (See page 24)

**£140m seized**

£140m worth of cash has been seized by police in a raid on a London hotel. (See page 24)

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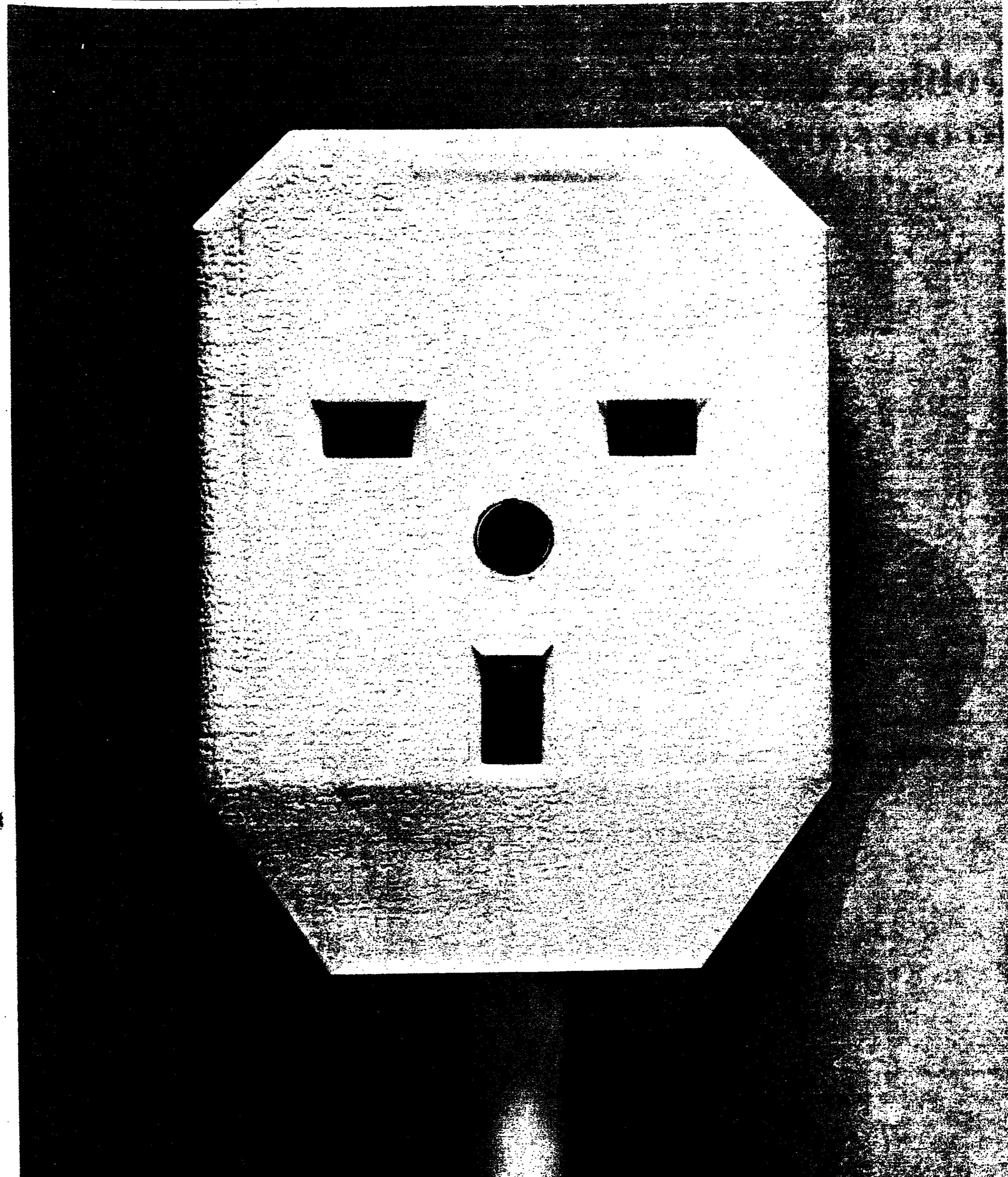
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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 1997



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# Alabama pupils defy judge's ban on prayers

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A POWERFUL movement of "godly disobedience" is sweeping through schools across the state of Alabama, after a federal judge struck out a state law allowing prayer in public schools.

Students, teachers and parents, united in their opposition to the ruling, are staging "pray-ins" in defiance of Judge Ira DeMent of the Federal District Court in Montgomery. The protesters have the full support of Forrest "Fob" James, the state's Republican Governor, and that of Bill Pryor, its Attorney-General, who have lambasted Judge DeMent's decision as "an unconstitutional abuse of power".

Mr James, vowing to appeal against the decision, has said that he will resist the prayer ban "by every legal and political means, with every ounce of strength I possess", and that he will turn the issue into a test case on the apparent conflict between the rights of states and federal powers.

Not since the "monkey trial" of 1925, when a teacher in Tennessee, John Thomas Scopes, was prosecuted for violating the state's ban on the teaching of evolution in the classroom, has the issue of religion in schools so inflamed passions and public opinion.

The latest case began last year when Michael Chandler, the assistant principal of Valley Head School in DeKalb County, filed a lawsuit against the state of Alabama, asking Judge DeMent to strike out a 1993 statute permitting "non-promulgating, voluntary prayer" in schools.

The Governor has received unsparing support from one of the state's judges, Roy Moore, of the Etowah County Circuit Court in Gadsden. Judge Moore, not one to hide his religious convictions under a bushel, is the subject of another lawsuit by a "secular crusader" seeking to force him to remove a tablet of the Ten Commandments from a wall in his courtroom.

Last week Judge DeMent agreed. The 1993 Alabama law violated the First Amendment — which guarantees free speech — because it "favours religion over non-religion". He ruled also that the law fell foul of the essence of so-called "Establishment Clause" of the US Constitution, which states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

This prompted an audacious response from the state Governor. Mr James has written a 34-page letter to the judge arguing that the First Amendment does not apply to the states.

He contends that the Bill of

Rights was enacted to limit the power of federal government, not that of states. Therefore, he continues, the Supreme Court or any other federal tribunal has no jurisdiction to bar Alabama students from voluntarily praying in school.

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Patriarch Diodorus and Amir Drori, head of the Israeli Antiquities Authority, seated above the stone believed to be where Mary sat

## Archaeologists uncover 'rock where Mary rested'

FROM ROSS DUNN  
IN JERUSALEM

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in Israel have uncovered the site where, according to Christian tradition, Mary stopped to rest on her way from Jerusalem to Bethlehem to give birth to Jesus. Digging at the Jerusalem site began in 1992, but only resumed in earnest in the past month when extra funds became available. The recent

excavations fully exposed the ruins of a large Byzantine church with rich mosaic floors, built round a rock known as the *Kathisma*, Greek for "the seat", the place where Mary is supposed to have rested.

"During the last week we succeeded in exposing a major part of the church, including the 'rock' in the centre of it," said Gideon Avni, chief archaeologist for the Jerusalem region. "This site was developed as a

religious site, as a focus of pilgrimage starting from the fourth century."

While part of the rock was exposed during the original excavations, Mr Avni said it was only through the recent work that archaeologists had been able to confirm that it was the site of Mary's resting place, according to early Christian traditions.

Those traditions date from before the construction of the church in the 5th century and were maintained to

the present by Christian pilgrims who stopped to worship there on their way to Bethlehem from Jerusalem.

The church is the largest of its type to be discovered in Israel, but the mosaic floors that have been uncovered date from the 17th century.

Leaders of the Greek Orthodox Church, which owns the land, attended a news conference at the site yesterday, applauding the Israeli archaeologists and singing a hymn.

## Hope springs for no-car national park

FROM GILES WHITTELL  
IN LOS ANGELES

ONE of nature's great cathedrals may no longer be choked throughout the summer by car fumes, thanks to a \$270 million (\$161 million) plan in the wake of disastrous floods last winter.

Yosemite National Park, whose towering granite cliffs draw more visitors each year than Yellowstone, is considering banning car-bound day-trippers from the valley where John Muir once urged Theo-

dore Roosevelt to preserve the American West. Visitors would have to walk, ride bicycles or use shuttle buses instead.

In the summer, 7,000 cars a day grind round the loop road that provides views of spectacular waterfalls and of astounding rock citadels, turning the valley floor into a slow-moving car park.

In January, heavy rains and an early thaw combined to burst the banks of the park's main river, the Merced, sweeping away roads and bridges in the worst flooding in the park's history. Yosemite

became eligible for \$190 million in federal relief funds, which conservationists say is a priceless opportunity to reorganise the park for future generations.

If the National Park Service's plan is approved, after public meetings throughout California, the money will be used to remove motel rooms, campsites and roads from the valley floor. More funds are being sought to build a 1,300-space car park at the entrance to Yosemite.

Leading article, page 23

## Clinton woos gay activists

BY GILES WHITTELL

WASHINGTON: President Clinton attempted yesterday to embrace America's gay community, at a dinner hosted, among others, by Ellen DeGeneres, the lesbian television personality. He promised workplace equality, but protests outside highlighted his failure over full military integration and same-sex marriages.

## Bomb suspect faces death penalty

BY GILES WHITTELL

THE man arrested last year as the suspected anti-technology terrorist known as the Unabomber could face the death penalty if convicted. Judge Garland Burrell ruled that jurors in the trial of Theodore Kaczynski, suspected of 16 bombings over 18 years, can recommend a death sentence if they convict him of a single fatal attack. He is charged with causing two deaths and injuring two other people in letter-bomb explosions in the Californian state capital of Sacramento; he has pleaded not guilty on all counts. Jury selection begins on Wednesday. His lawyers made a final effort on Friday to have death ruled out as a possible sentence.

Mr Kaczynski, a former Berkeley mathematics professor, was traced to a cabin in

the Montana mountains last year. His brother, David, had tipped off the FBI in the hope that his help would encourage the prosecution not to seek the death penalty. It was "necessary to turn my brother in to the authorities", he says in a forthcoming interview, adding that the bombing campaign was a symptom of "illness rather than evil and not something that I could control or he could control".

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 1997

MIND AND MATTER 17

# Stubborn winter killer

Scientists are still battling to develop a vaccine to combat the deadly effects of RSV virus, reports Anjana Ahuja

**T**here is a virus that surfaces, regular as clockwork, every November and lingers throughout winter until about March. During its annual visit, it preys on the very vulnerable — the young and the old. The disease puts hundreds of infants into intensive care every year, although mortalities are rare. The elderly are not so lucky — some experts consider the virus to be a bigger killer than influenza.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was identified in the early 1960s. First symptoms include a chesty cold; it doesn't get much worse for a healthy child. But the virus can have a devastating effect on premature infants, or children with underlying chest disorders, congenital heart disease or immune system deficiencies.

Unlike flu, there is no vaccine, and biologists in Britain and America are desperately trying to manufacture one. Dr Patricia Cane, of Birmingham University, says: "From now until after Christmas baby wards in hospitals up and down the country will be clogged with children suffering from RSV. The disease has a huge social and economic impact, but it is rather neglected."

Dr Cane, formerly at Warwick University, is being funded by the Wellcome Trust to investigate the chameleon-like nature of RSV. Often mistaken for flu, the virus undergoes genetic drift from one epidemic to the next. In any given year, up to six variations can be pinpointed.

Most of the variation seems to centre on a substance called the G-protein, which forms part of the virus coating. Amino acids, which form the building blocks of proteins, are constantly rearranging themselves.

This causes the coating to change subtly so the immune response changes too," says Dr Cane. "It makes the virus a moving target."

So unlike the related measles virus, which can be targeted with just one vaccine, any RSV vaccine would have to be tuned to the particular strain in circulation. But each epidemic seems to be made up of multiple lineages, so any successful vaccine would likely be a "cocktail".

Testing vaccines on infants remains a major drawback. One test carried out in Washington in the 1960s involved a deactivated virus — the virus was, in effect, killed off. But the vaccine, according to Dr Cane, sent immune systems into overdrive and was "a disaster". A few children subsequently died.

Dr Cane says: "The vaccination itself was fine, but it induced an immune response that was not protective. More children ended up in hospital because of their response to the natural infection after vaccination than would have



Initial symptoms of RSV are no worse than a cold, but the virus puts hundreds of infants into intensive care every year

done as a result of the effects of the virus alone." This overproduction of useless, and even harmful, antibodies is known as an unbalanced immune response. The vaccine in question also had to be injected — not an ideal option for infants.

It is now thought that deactivating the virus may have led to the catastrophic immune response in some cases.

**V**accinating people who could pass on the virus, rather than the babies themselves, is an option that is being considered. "It might be better to vaccinate would-be mothers, so the immunity is passed on to the baby," says Dr Cane. "We are exploring the possibility of vaccinating older schoolchildren so they don't go home and pass the virus on to their siblings."

But whether the vaccine?

There is one promising prospect on the horizon. Discussions are under way to revive a vaccine developed a decade ago by Professor Craig Pringle at Warwick University, and the Medical Research Council Virology Unit in Glasgow. The live vaccine was administered in adult volunteers at the end

of the 1980s, but further investigation, including whether it could actually protect against RSV, was abandoned.

Dr Andrew Easton, a biologist at Warwick University, would like to see the vaccine trials renewed. A similar effort is under way in America at the National Institutes of Health near Washington.

Both trials would involve a live, attenuated virus. Dr Easton says: "The point of such a vaccine is to make sure the virus replicates enough to elicit an immune response, but not enough to cause disease. Such a vaccine can be made by putting the virus in an artificial host, to which it adapts. When this virus moves to a human host, the difference in environment means it replicates poorly."

Live, attenuated virus vaccines produce a balanced immune response — they trigger only the production of relevant antibodies. Animal tests have been promising and the vaccine can be administered using nasal drops. Dr Easton thinks this is the way to go: "We desperately need a vaccine, and there aren't any other real alternatives. It's a long haul, but I'm optimistic."

But whether the vaccine?

The joint experiment is being run by Professor Leik Myrabo at the Phillips Laboratory, Kirkland, Air Force Base in New Mexico, and Marshall, and the test will take place at the White Sands Missile Range, also in New Mexico.

The force of the lift-off is

determined by the power of the laser and the nature of the capsule's underside. Dr Campbell describes it as a "marriage between optics and propulsion". The laser presently in use is only 10 kilowatts, but the one to be used at White Sands will be 15 times more powerful.

The underside is mirrored and contoured to allow the laser energy to focus on a small volume of air, and it takes just a few milliseconds to get the capsule airborne.

In a demonstration last month, the 14ft ascent looked less than elegant. But as the polished aluminium capsule took flight a little awkwardly, onlookers were already

## Into space with a laser lift-off

SCIENTISTS are this month preparing to test an unusual way of propelling objects into space. The concept involves using a laser to heat air beneath a capsule — the air then expands rapidly, launching the capsule. It is hoped the technique could provide an alternative means of sending satellites into space.

The principle of the Lightcraft experiment has already been demonstrated in the laboratory. Now there are plans to fire a capsule outside.

"When we tried it in the laboratory the capsule was bouncing off the ceiling," says Dr Jonathan Campbell, project manager for beam energy propulsion research at NASA's Marshall Space Flight

Centre in Huntsville, Alabama. "Until we get outside, we won't know what altitude we can reach. We plan to do that any day now."

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This may pave the way for cheap space travel

but it was an extremely significant moment when we showed that the principle could work in practice," says Dr Campbell. "We were delighted we could prove anything at all."

The unusual propulsion method could pave the way for cheap access to space, according to Dr Campbell.

The great about laser propulsion is the fact that the system is on the ground," he says. "A lot of the weight and volume on rockets is dedicated to propulsion. If we can leave that on the ground, we only need to lift the payload. A great deal of our work at Marshall is devoted to pushing down the costs of getting into space."

Provided powerful enough lasers become available, the only propulsion costs involved would be the electricity bill for powering them.

There is an additional possible use for laser propulsion — it can be employed to shift payloads around in space. That scenario can be simulated by propelling

horizontal capsules.

It is possible that NASA will eventually use lasers to boost vehicles or satellites to 40,000ft at Mach 6 (six times the speed of sound). Then the laser could be focused on a pocket of fuel, creating additional thrust, though that is at least a decade away.

PRESENT aims are a little more modest, partly due to the inevitable funding problems (the project has cost about £625,000 so far). However, experiments will continue on propelling small objects to ever-higher altitudes.

The team hopes to fire a small capsule to an altitude of at least half a kilometre within 18 months. After that, effort will focus on getting a picosatellite, weighing less than one kilogram, to sub-orbital altitudes.

"People may not realise it,

ANJANA AHUJA

## Superdrugs □ Batman's 'hotel' □ Reaping benefits Evolution solution

LIFE evolved through billions of happy accidents, creating organisms that happen to flourish in the particular environment they occupy.

Now a similar approach to drug design has scored a first success, showing that evolution, the blind watchmaker, can also be a blind drugmaker. An American team of NeXstar, a biotechnology company in Boulder, Colorado, has used an evolutionary technique to produce a material that can inhibit the action of elastase, an enzyme active in the lung. The ultimate aim is to prevent heart failure caused by respiratory distress syndrome, which is estimated to kill 75,000 people a year in the United States alone.

The method the team used has been described by Dr Sydney Brenner, one of the grandfathers of molecular biology, as "irrational drug design". The tag is a joke since the chemists who make drugs today like to believe that they have escaped from trial-and-error and started to design drugs on a rational basis, from an understanding of the underlying molecular biology.

The NeXstar team approached the problem from a different direction. Rather than studying the biology of respiratory distress in detail to design a drug from first principles, they created a million million different drugs and then selected from the mixture the one that worked best. They allowed the biological system itself to make the choice, just as the environment selects which organisms survive during the process of evolution.

The key to the process is the ability, using automated synthesis, to make billions of copies of short lengths of the genetic material DNA, called aptamers, each slightly different. Within this genetic zoo there is likely to be at least one aptamer that will bind to any given target molecule.

So all that is necessary is to screen the mixture in some way to select the particular aptamer that works best, then add an active ingredient so that it can be used as a drug.

Earlier this year, Dr Drew Smith of NeXstar and colleagues reported that they had made aptamers that incorporated a known inhibitor of elastase.



They put this small molecule (a valyl diphenylester phosphonate) into a "library" of a million million different DNA sequences. They then checked in a test tube how well each of the variants promoted the reaction between the inhibitor and elastase, and found one that was 10,000 times more effective than the inhibitor alone. The increase comes about because of the ability of the DNA to fold into stable shapes that bind firmly to the enzyme, enhancing the action of the inhibitor.

The result could be of medical value because it is known that with inflammatory diseases of the lung, elastase does the damage. White blood cells attracted to the site of inflammation produce the elastase, which is normally under the control of inhibitors produced by the body. If this control process breaks down, inflammation of the lung caused by infection can be followed by serious and permanent lung damage, which in turn can lead to heart failure.

In the latest issue of *Current Biology*, Dr Smith and colleagues from the University of Zurich and the University of Michigan Medical School report on tests of their aptamer in rats. They provoked inflammation in the rats' lungs by injecting cow protein and antibodies, which provoked swelling and tissue damage. Nine rats were left untreated, while a further 22 were given different doses of the aptamer. The higher the dose, they report, the less the lung damage. This is the first time any aptamer has been shown to work in an animal model of a disease. And in a separate paper in *Chemistry and Biology*, Dr Smith and two colleagues show that the aptamer can also be used as a diagnostic tool. Linked to a fluorescent dye, it sticks to areas of inflammation and glows.

Dr Smith believes that because aptamers are easily made by machine, drugs based on them may be cheaper than those produced conventionally. Treating a human disease with aptamers is still a leap, but in principle we can do this, he says. NeXstar is not alone in believing aptamers may have a big future; several other biotechnology companies are active in the field.

## Bats off to a life of luxury

**BAT-LOVERS** may soon be winging it to Johnson City, Texas, where the world's largest artificial bat cave has been built in a ranch belonging to J. David Bamberger, the former boss of a fried chicken chain. Mr Bamberger, an unashamed bat enthusiast, told *The New York Times*: "Bats are going to overtake dinosaurs in popularity."

The cave consists of a series of linked igloo-shaped enclosures made from a framework of steel reinforcing bars covered in a form of concrete called gunite, whose nobly texture evidently suits bats.

It is likely that the bat hotel, or chiroptorian, will be occupied by Mexican free-tail bats as soon as it is finished as they already colonise virtually every building in the vicinity. More than a million roost under a bridge in nearby Austin.

As a further temptation, Mr Bamberger — who has spent \$250,000 (£150,000) on the cave's 22 tons of steel bar, 10,000 square feet of metal lath, and 250 square yards of gunite — is providing a temperature-controlled environment and a layer of bat guano on the floor.

## Playing the field for greater yields

**ONE** of the world's oldest agricultural experiments has celebrated its hundredth anniversary. In 1897 the Palace Leas field at Newcastle University's Cockle Park Farm, near Morpeth, was divided into 13 plots, each half an acre in size. The original aim was to discover how to produce the greatest yield of hay, by varying grass species and types of fertiliser, but since then the plots have been used for many purposes.

Dr Robert Shiel, who has managed the experiment since 1980, says that it has had important impacts on farming. "Seed mixtures developed using the results of the experiments and the duo of basic slag (a phosphate fertiliser) and wild white clover had a big impact on grassland farming in northern Britain."

Many of the original fertilisers are outdated, but they are still used to test the sustainability of production. Organic farmers can take particular comfort from the results. "Yield on the manure plots has always been greater than on the fertiliser-treated plots," says Dr Shiel. "Cows also seem to prefer these plots — they are obviously tastier."

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# 'I hated successful authors'

ALBAN DONOHUE

One day novelist Rob Mawson was trying to sign on the dole, the next he was a publishing property worth millions.

Interview by Libby Purves

**A**utumn. Frankfurt time, is the season when struggling authors dream of overnight success. Throw another chair leg on the fire, hold off the bailiffs and tell heroic tales of gallant but broke Davids who took millions off the publishing Goliaths. Invoke *The Horse Whisperer* and *Gridiron*, bids from Robert Redford and deals with Disney.

This year did not disappoint the glittering finger pointed to Robert Mawson, an unassuming 41-year-old whose first book sank without trace and who had sold his last security, house and business to write alone in a borrowed French cottage.

"I thought that if I just kept going for a year and did three manuscripts, one might earn enough for me to afford to keep writing," he says. In the event, *The Lazarus Child* created a frenzy that culminated in a man from Transworld camping on the agent's doorstep at dawn, and Mr Mawson being offered more than £2 million within a week of posting the manuscript. In Suffolk, where he has been a casual schoolgate acquaintance since the 1980s, I can vouch for the fact that a lot of toast-crumps went down the wrong way when the news broke of his transformation from "Poor old Rob" into a publishing property cited in the same breath as Elton John's memoirs.

His own shock was even greater. When the call came through he was back in England, had just failed to sign on the dole because his stamps were wrong and was battling for a council tax rebate so he could replace his word processor if it broke down halfway through printing the manuscript. I found him in a holiday cottage in Aldeburgh, amid the dead starfish and collected pebbles of someone else's summer holidays. This, he says, is the only interview he will give before publication in May. "I don't get it yet," he says. "Part of me is still back with that poor guy in France."

He has a serious, melancholy cast of face, partly practical, outdoor, public-school chap, partly demonstrative romantic. If struggles are the stuff of fiction, he has known his share. He walked unqualified out of Westminster school at 17 and served

'I had boxes of things I'd written. I was driven to write'

on the verge of a comeback. They are wonderful, and under-exploited. You had to take the odd seashell pill, but it was great."

For the next seven years the airships kept the Mawsons floating high, affluent, living in a pretty Suffolk house, with three small children (now 13, 12 and 10), nannies and gardeners. "I wasn't home enough for my liking," Mr Mawson says, "otherwise it was fine." He wrote an aviation thriller described by an agent as "long on aviation, short on thrills", and began to study the mechanics of novel-writing. He bought how-to books and read eclectically: John Fowles, the Amises, Burgess, Patrick O'Brien, Iain Banks, Thomas Hardy.... He brooded on characters, and the crises into which they could be plunged.

**F**ate was planning the same for him. In 1990, Mr Mawson was again made redundant, this time in a recession. He refused to look for another job, but used his pay-off to buy time to write his first published novel, *A Ship Called Hope*. "I thought, what do I know about? Redundancy! Families! I imagined this guy, Peter, worked out just how bad it could get and let it run from there. The book just tumbled out."

*A Ship Called Hope* does not deserve its obscurity, although the publishers failed to promote or encourage their tentative author. It is a raw-edged novel, but still a harrowingly believable picture of a yuppie marriage



The glittering finger of success pointed to Robert Mawson, an unassuming 41-year-old whose first book sank without trace and who had sold his house and business

hitting the financial rocks. In the heyday of the woman-centred *Aga* saga it told a man's story, sparing no part of his financial and social humiliation as he fails to find work, panics, cheats the bank and ends up in a rundown cottage with a contemptuous wife and their small children. He retreats to the shed to fire off ever more hopeless CVs, and is saved from suicide only by a gesture from his son.

Paradoxically, Mr Mawson was rather enjoying his own redundancy. "I had a brilliant year: stayed at home, wrote the novel, joined the PTA, helped out at the school, met the boys every afternoon with the baby on the back of my pushbike, started a band [Sunday Driver, with the wives as go-go dancers], I felt I had roots at last."

But before it could be published, things went wrong. His marriage did not survive the change of lifestyle, and in 1992 he was an unwilling divorcee. "Being a parent is drip, drip, drip a bit here, a bit there, just being around. It's not being this wonder-person who comes and does fun things for a few hours then goes away. There, alone in Anjou, he wrote *The Lazarus Child*, the story of parents with a daughter in a coma. He rattles off its themes in intense shorthand: "Families, imminent break-up therefrom — conflict, but both loving the children. The business of coma, and people walking who've been written off. Do you switch someone off or not? There's no right answer. More conflict. Science

"I am not comfortable being a weekend father. It upsets me. Family break-up is the bottomless tragedy of our time."

For four years he lived nearby, setting up a copywriting business with a partner and producing two and a half unpublishable manuscripts. "I couldn't apply myself full-time. I wasn't happy, clients weren't happy." So he sold his share of the business, making things even bleaker.

"Money was more and more of a problem, I got depressed, took Prozac," Early this year, he sold his small house and borrowed the French cottage. "Seeing the children less was the worst bit."

There, alone in Anjou, he wrote *The Lazarus Child*, the story of parents with a daughter in a coma. He rattles off its themes in intense shorthand:

"Families, imminent break-up therefrom — conflict, but both loving the children. The business of coma, and people walking who've been written off. Do you switch someone off or not? There's no right answer. More conflict. Science

oustripping our ability to manage it morally. Medical funding. There's always a stressed-out couple in the papers pleading for £10,000 to send someone to a miracle clinic in Switzerland."

He wrote fast, withdrawn from friends and family. "I told everyone that after a year I'd find a real job and rejoin the human race. But I knew I'd do no such thing. I was going to keep going."

**C**oming out of this obsessive tunnel into the light of financial relief and the glare of publicity, he remains cautious and downbeat. He wants a home close to the children, time to see friends again, sail, organise his reclusive bouts of writing with more logic. "It means I can get a life."

At least he can now go into bookshops without crumbling into depression. "I hated successful authors. I'd look around and see how many books there were and say God, who are all these people?"

Now everything is different. The week the news broke I saw him in the local bookshop, where his arrival drew gasps of: "Phwoar! You know who that is, don't you?" The new megastar is not ready for this yet. He fled with consummate embarrassment to hide in the stationery section.

## Fear of flooding

Then I remembered there was an opening on to the roof of the house. Holding the leaping pipe in one hand, I struggled to the hatch, and heaved upwards. It flew open, revealing the dawn above. I directed the geyser towards the heavens. Any passer-by would have seen a plume of spray issuing from the roof, as from the blowhole of a whale.

Downstairs, my wife was ringing emergency plumbers. The *Yellow Pages* are littered with them. Most boast a 24-hour service, adding reassuring phrases such as "on-site within one hour guaranteed". Some insert the word "genuine" — thus instilling the first seeds of doubt.

She got through six pages without success. Most simply didn't answer. Others had an answering service, inviting callers to try "during office hours". One referred all calls to a central number that never replied. Not one produced action.

My wife was on the point of calling the fire brigade when our lodger pulled off a miracle: she found the mains stopcock, buried under a heap of dusters in the broom cupboard. She turned it off.

Up in the loft a crazed-looking creature in a sodden dressing-gown stared as the spouting pipe came to a dribbling halt. All was silence. Except that from downstairs came the seeping sounds of a house absorbing water and damp soot — and a mounting sense of a drama turning into a crisis.

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## How 'science' can confuse morality

Roger Scruton on sex education, hunting and common sense

In a world without God, science is the only authority. Science has theories, results and experts. It answers questions and you don't answer back. Coffee-table books by smooth-talking Darwinists become more precious than Bibles, and professors more sought out than priests. The only trouble is, you have to learn the difference between real science and the pretend variety, and the difference isn't always obvious.

There are two kinds of bad science: pseudo-science given in answer to real scientific questions; and real science given in answer to questions that are not scientific at all. Both are damaging, not merely intellectually but also morally, as we can see from two current instances.

There is a real scientific question, as to how we acquire our sexual preferences. By what process does the child come to fix his sexual interests on a particular sex, and on a particular person? Freud explained the matter simply. The child, he said, is already a sexual being. He is fixated from the first on his parents, and, as he grows older, his sexuality is gradually detached from its primal object and transferred to a stranger. The child's sexuality, however, is "pseudomorphously perverse": it could develop in any direction. Everything depends upon what we do to him.

That is pseudoscience. It purports to explain the emergence of adult sexuality only by redescribing the behaviour of children in terms of it. In all the ways in which true scientific thought displays itself — through careful experiment, through clear hypotheses and the search for their refutation, through the neutral description of both cause and effect — Freudian psychology is manifestly defective. It arrives at its conclusions only by redescribing the evidence in terms of them, and it leans for its authority on nothing more empirical than a dark and mysterious tragedy by Sophocles.

Nevertheless, the "theory" has consequences. Ever since Freud, it has been assumed that children are already sexually responsive, that adults are assiduously trying to "repress" their "eruptive" desires, and that the latent emergence of adolescent erotic feeling is as much a piece of social engineering as a natural result of biology. This farago of nonsense feeds into the philosophy of "liberation", and gives rise to the dangerous belief that since children are already prey to sexual desire, we must ease their tortured souls by permitting its expression. The effects of this on sex "education" have been devastating.

In so far as children were taught about sex in the past, it was with one predominant end: to safeguard chastity. It was not sex that was taught, but its prevention. The result was that girls hoped for marriage, and boys learnt to respect the answer "no".

Thanks largely to Freud, all that has been inverted. Sex education, as currently practised by experts and advisers, is devoted entirely to teaching children about sex: not how to avoid it, but how to do it. The shameless quality of this "education" stems from the fact that it is devoted to destroying shame, to making children feel "good" about things which fuddy-duddies wish to "repress". The only things that children need to know, according to the experts, are hygiene and the avoidance of more children. The rest is pleasure.

And whether you take this pleasure with members of another sex or members of your own is a matter of supreme indifference.

Sex education, so conceived, is really vicious paedophilia. The adult "adviser", explaining the use of the condom to a class of 14-year-olds, with slides and pictures, is the person for which every paedophile craves — freely arousing the sexual curiosity of the immature, with himself as the centre of attention.

There is another kind of pseudo-science that has come to the fore in the debate over hunting. Michael Foster MP finds no contradiction between his Bill to ban hunting with hounds and his own favourite pastime of angling. This is because "science has proved" that fish don't feel pain or fear or stress as we do. Moreover, Professor Patrick Bateson's report for the National Trust "proves" that the hunted stag feels stress beyond anything that can be accommodated by its natural equipment. But science proves nothing of the kind. It is a philosophical and not a scientific question whether fish feel pain or fear, or whether the thing which is measured by Professor Bateson is rightly described as "stress". All that science shows is that the nervous systems of fish are differently constructed and that the physiological changes that accompany exertion and fear are exhibited by hunted stags.

Those results are unsurprising. But absolutely nothing relevant is proved by them. When we attribute pain or fear to another human being it is not because we have first assured ourselves that he has a nervous system exactly like ours. Suppose we discovered that members of a particular tribe were endowed with eccentric neural hardware: would we feel free to injure them? Of course not, for pain is a matter of the software and not the hardware of an organism. It is for us to decide, through observation and sympathy, what an animal feels. And I can tell Mr Foster for a fact, that the fish he hooks feel far more pain and fear than any hunted fox.

In these two examples we see how pretend science leads to a confused morality: in the one case allowing what should be forbidden, in the other case forbidding what should be allowed. And this confusion is what we should expect. For it is not science that delivers the answers to moral questions, but common sense.

## Short fall

THE VOLCANO on Montserrat continues to cause eruptions in Clare Short's ministerial career. Tony Blair and Robin Cook have downgraded the International Development Secretary's role in HMG's handling of the Caribbean island crisis by putting Baroness Symons in charge instead. The junior Foreign Office minister will for the first time chair today's meeting of the Montserrat Action Group which was set up in August to coordinate relief for the islanders. Mr Cook created the cross-departmental committee after criticism of the Government's shambolic response to the crisis and Ms Short's accusation that Montserratians were seeking "golden elephants" as compensation for their plight.

The Foreign Secretary insisted at the time that the group's creation was not a snub to the International Development Minister, emphasising that only Whitehall officials would be involved. But the appointment of Mr Cook's political side-kick flies in the face of that assurance.

Today's meeting represents another blow for Ms Short. Despite her best efforts in recent months to tow the party line, fulsomely displayed during last week's *Question Time* on BBC1, she will never be considered as "one of us" by Mr Blair. For Baroness Symons, however, the new job merely reconfirms the Prime Minister's enthusiasm for her talents. The

I was very lucky in my Oxford generation. I was at Balliol in January 1946 to the summer of 1951, with a two-year gap in the middle, when I was doing my National Service in the RAF. My generation included those who had fought in the war and others, like myself, who had come up straight from school. Among my undergraduate contemporaries were Margaret Thatcher, Shirley Williams, Michael Heseltine, Edward Boyle, Tony Benn, Ken Tynan, Tony Richardson, Robin Day and Rupert Murdoch. Tony Crosland was a young don. As Samuel Johnson said of Pembroke College in his day: "Sir, we were a nest of singing birds."

We were lucky in our contemporaries; we were even luckier in the dons who taught us. The most remarkable of them came from a single generation. Maurice Bowra and C.S. Lewis were born in 1899; Gilbert Ryle and Roy Harrod in 1900; David Cecil in 1902; A.J.L. Rowse in 1903; Thomas Balogh in 1905; A.J.P. Taylor in 1906; Isaiah Berlin in 1909. There are two surviving but younger members of the group; Christopher Hill, who was my history tutor at Balliol, was born in 1912, and Hugh Trevor-Roper in 1914. This list is rather weighted towards historians; no doubt there were other influential figures whom I have omitted, or did not come across while I was an undergraduate. Apart from A.J.P. Taylor, I met all of them, as well as attending lectures or tutorials given by most of them.

I met Isaiah Berlin, who was still a Fellow of New College, while I was an undergraduate, and remember meeting him next and having a more substantial conversation at Harvard in 1951. He was then doing some sabbatical teaching in the United States. The obituaries and reminiscences since his death have well brought out his liberal and pluralist ideas which, even then, I

## Sir Isaiah Berlin belonged to a race of giants that few dons today can equal Casting a shadow on Oxford's elite

knew that I both shared and, in part, did not share.

What they have not emphasised is his sense of the tragedy of the human condition. He saw that there are many paths that individuals can choose; he did not believe that these paths could or should all be turned into one great trunk road; he knew that for most people, perhaps in the end for all people, the individual paths lead to disappointment. The melancholy inherent in his view of the world was sweetened by his generous personality, and by his openness to different views; yet he shared the same melancholy that one finds in the works attributed to Solomon in the Bible. His childhood experience of the last years of pre-revolutionary Russia contributed to his feeling of the impermanence of human societies.

This melancholy also showed in his view of Israel. From the early years he had been a committed Zionist. He was much loved, and much admired in Israel. As he grew older, he saw groups with which he had little sympathy gaining power. His values and his hopes had never been those of Likud or the religious parties. He never spoke about this with any bitterness, but his sense that men without wisdom were endangering the future of Israel was evident.

When one is a student one takes for granted the dons will not only want to teach, but also will be interested in one's own ideas, however immature.

Only later does one come to feel the gratitude one should have felt from the start. There we were, bright students, being given an extraordinary amount of the time of this remarkably gifted group of men. We treated them like intellectual milch cows. Apart from what they taught us, most of them produced work that is still of great interest: Isaiah Berlin's political study of ideas; Gilbert Ryle's *The Concept of Mind*; Christopher Hill's work on 17th-century history; Hugh Trevor-Roper and A.J.P. Taylor

who might have been expected to be remembered for their work is Maurice Bowra? He wrote a large number of books, but is remembered as a teacher rather than as a scholar. As a teacher he was exceptionally dynamic.

What broader lessons did we learn from them? From Berlin a generosity towards other people's ideas, from Cecil a sympathy towards those authors who understood the pain of the quiet life, from Lewis a robust view of the divine, from Taylor the fog from which historic events emerged, from Rowse the romance of the peak periods, from Ryle a certain method of analysing ideas, from Hill that England, too, had been capable of revolution, from Trevor-Roper his lucidity of exposition. We learnt, in short, the ideal of liberal scholarship which was the faith of Oxford in the 1940s. How could we be other than grateful for that?

What did those of us who were lucky enough to know him learn from Maurice Bowra. He was the brigand chieftain of this band. He taught us that the Oxford ideal could be followed with energy, with vigour, with attack. As a scholar he was surprisingly cautious; as a teacher he never hesitated to take risks. His motto was that of the French cavalry, "L'audace, l'audace, toujours l'audace." It did not work too well in 1914 when the French were charging the German machine-guns, but it made the Warden's dinner-table at

Wadham a battlefield of brilliant colours.

We also learnt from their extraordinary kindness, from their patience with the young that lies at the heart of all good teaching; this was a Socratic quality that Berlin kept to the very end. Their kindness of spirit did not inhibit a donnish sharpness of speech. "A fine retentive intellect — like blotting paper," was how Bowra described one of his dearest colleagues. He thought it the worst of sins for anyone to repeat such comments to the victim. These barbs were meant to amuse rather than to wound, though wound they sometimes did.

It is easy to look back on one's youth and reflect on the decline of the old institutions. So far as I can judge some institutions seem to have got worse, while others are unquestionably much better than they were 50 years ago. Unfortunately, Oxford University is not one of the latter.

For whatever reasons, which may include early matrimony and low academic salaries, there are now few dons of the calibre of the leading figures of 50 years ago, who themselves seemed at least the equals of the major figures of the 19th century. Sometimes, eminent public men like Sir Robin Butler are still imported to be Heads of Houses, but public eminence was an export trade of the Oxford of the 1940s, and has now become a matter of imports. Diogenes took a lantern to look for a wise man; he would not now be expected to take his lantern with him to Oxford.

These men lived, as Berlin chose to live, in the service of the intellectual world; they were people of high gifts. Those of us who were taught by them remember them as a race of giants. We see few giants in the modern world, and even fewer giants among the Oxford dons.

and a recipe for delays and non-decision as they failed sufficiently to confront powerful departmental vested interests". One result has been an increased use of task forces involving a mixture of civil servants and outsiders on issues crossing departments such as welfare-to-work, standards in schools, youth justice and, now, skills shortages.

But most important of all has been a strengthening of the centre of government with the Cabinet Office and No 10 Policy Unit working more closely. This is supposed to assist "proactive initiatives" from the centre. This is a step towards a Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, though Sir Robin has emphasised the distinction between the Cabinet Office driving forward the Government's agenda and becoming a policy player in its own right, which might threaten its ability to be an honest broker across Whitehall".

In practice, prime ministers never feel as powerful as they are often depicted and they can be checked by determined ministers. Their power has varied not only between different premiers but also during their periods in office. Nonetheless, we have moved towards a more presidential system in the central co-ordination of strategy and presentation.

Some of these changes are desirable to give direction to government but they also have risks. The Government's self-inflicted problems over a single currency and tobacco sponsorship might have been avoided if the issues had been properly discussed by more ministers at the right time — and in the latter case, if Tessa Jowell's support for a comprehensive ban, including Formula One, had not been clumsily overruled by Downing Street.

The decline in the Cabinet's collective function also puts a strain on what Lord Wakeham has described as its role as "the cement which binds the Government together". Collective responsibility depends on senior ministers being able to have their say on big issues. Mr Blair can command now. But he will need to involve his Cabinet before long.

## Cracks in the Cabinet cement

Tony Blair must let his ministers have their say on big issues, says Peter Riddell

The long predicted demise of the Cabinet as a central organ of government has finally occurred. Cabinet Ministers still matter as heads of departments, but their Thursday meetings are no longer of real importance. Most decisions have for a long time been taken by committees or by small ad hoc groups. But, under Tony Blair, the full Cabinet has lost even its residual role as a court of appeal or as a forum for discussing big issues. We have moved from a collective to a centralised system directed by 10 Downing Street.

Sir Robin Butler is in a unique position to observe these changes as Cabinet Secretary for the past ten years and as private secretary to three Prime Ministers. During a pre-retirement interview recently, he remarked how the Cabinet had returned to its 18th-century origins as a weekly meeting of political friends, discussing issues informally with decisions taken elsewhere. This did not start on May 2 as Sir Robin pointed out, there has been a long process of change.

In the 1940s, the Cabinet ceased being a decision-making body considering most issues. Instead, it would adjudicate issues referred to it from an expanded system of Cabinet committees or by individual ministers. But as the Crossman, Castle and Berlin diaries show, the Cabinets of the Wilson and Callaghan era often had lengthy meetings on big questions. The public spending battles of the early Thatcher era also came to the full Cabinet before she purged the "wets".

But over the past decade, the Cabinet has increasingly become a discursive body, as the political

scientist Simon James has noted. It has taken fewer decisions. I remember Nigel Lawson telling a seminar at the Institute of Historical Research in 1993 how he "always looked forward to the weekly Cabinet meeting immensely because it was, apart from the summer holidays, the only period of real rest that I got in what was a very heavy job". Nonetheless, John Major held lengthy discussions on awkward topics like Europe so that all had their say and were committed to the final policy.

But Mr Blair has gone further, preferring an informal approach without an agenda. He asks a minister to introduce a general discussion on the issue of the moment. The court of appeal is now the sofa of his small office rather than the Cabinet table next door. There is even little left of what John Wakeham, the

veteran Tory fixer, in 1993 described as the Cabinet's use as "a reporting and reviewing body, rather than a decision-taker". As Peter Mandelson said in a recent lecture, the Cabinet is "not the cook and the Cabinet room is not the kitchen".

The Cabinet minutes may still give more of an impression of order. For instance, on July 17, the Cabinet agreed to proportional representation for the next European elections. In reality, Mr Blair had already decided on the basis of a paper from Jack Straw and Robin Cook. Mr Blair dismissively told his colleagues: "Alastair [Campbell] briefed the press yesterday and Jack [Straw] will be answering a parliamentary question this afternoon."

Virtually none of the Government's major initiatives have been discussed by the full Cabinet. Issues are discussed bilaterally with affected ministers, while inter-departmental disputes are resolved in Cabinet committees. David Trimble has become the most politically influential Lord Chancellor this century, both because of his closeness to Mr Blair and because he chairs committees on constitutional matters and future legislation. For instance, Lord Trimble chaired 15 meetings of the devolution committee lasting 30 hours to produce the Scottish and Welsh White Papers in July.

But the new regime has been impatient with the traditional structure of Cabinet committees which, Mr Mandelson has said, had "sometimes been allowed to become excessively slow moving and bureaucratic.



Lady Powell: Blair's friend

Powell's reaction against Thatcherism was, naturally, to campaign for that icon of altruism, Sir James Goldsmith, while becoming ever so friendly with Blairites. Mandelson. Apparently new Labour will raise the moral standards of public life; her brother-in-law, Jonathan, is Blair's chief of staff. In the magazine article, she also has a go at the press. "They don't like what I say, so they present me as a frivolous floozy interested only in parties, or a pushy foreigner trying to pull the strings from behind the scenes." Can't think why.

JASPER GERARD

slapped down one too many times by Mr Mandelson are awaiting his appearance before them to get their revenge. Unfortunately, only five minutes have been allocated to the bout.

News of the little local difficulties confronting London's opera and ballet companies have clearly not reached their colleagues at the Kirov in St Petersburg. The Russian opera and ballet group has arrived in London on a fundraising tour.

Francis Maude, the shadow culture minister, will have the privilege of throwing the first Tony punch. "We're going all out to get him," a second in Maude's corner boasted at the weekend. "We may not want to dump the Dome, but we are more than happy to dump on Mandelson."

Mr Maude and his team are

keen to deliver a knock-out that will be limbering up for today's clash since the summer recess and drawn up a list of 90 questions. There are also rumours that some Labour MPs who have been

lady launched yesterday, was unable to catch the attention of Britain's powerbrokers. Westminster Cable, which caters for all those living and working within a stone's throw of Parliament, is not carrying the channel. While most of the British public would not care two hoots, some of Labour's spinocracy envisage a nightmare scenario: what if rogue elements such as Tony or Ken choose the station to make a point and go undetected?

Off air

PITY poor auntie. BBC News 24, the Beeb's new television news service

is down to a packet a year. "Sloppi Monica" is the cartoon by Garry Kasparov showing a woman in a dress, looking annoyed, standing next to a man in a suit who is sitting at a desk with papers. The text "Sloppi Monica" is written at the bottom.

Love notes

AFTER suffering a bump at the gym, Nesta Wyn Ellis has given up words for notes. The writer, who penned an intimate biography of John Major back in 1991, is composing a musical called *All My Love*, which will be based loosely around her love life.

"It's going to be very romantic," Ms Wyn Ellis enthused. "The identity of my past lovers will remain enigmatic, although people will have a great time trying to work out who they are. Chorus numbers will be about politicians, including the former prime minister. Not that Mr Major was ever one of my lovers." Heaven forbid.

THE DAY Conservative, and not a few Labour, MPs have been waiting for has arrived. Peter



Eruptions: Short and Symons

former general secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants is a member of the inner circle and the very symbol of a Labourite; her teenage son plays with Blair's kids at No 10.

Dome payback

THE DAY Conservative, and not a few Labour, MPs have been waiting for has arrived. Peter

down  
elite

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 1997



## A FLAWED SURVEY

CBI claims that business wants to join EMU are wrong

The Confederation of British Industry claimed yesterday that three-quarters of British businesses were behind the idea of Britain joining the single currency at the earliest practicable opportunity after 1999. The CBI leadership concluded from this that the essential condition for membership set by the Labour Government — that joining would bring “clear and unambiguous” benefits to Britain — would almost certainly be satisfied by the beginning of the next Parliament in 2002. The CBI is simply wrong — on at least four counts.

First, because the true state of opinion among CBI members is by no means as clear as the leadership contends. The statements made yesterday by Sir Colin Marshall, its president, were a distortion of the CBI’s own survey figures. Although 72 per cent of respondents said that Britain should “plan to join EMU as soon as convergence is in place”, the majority of companies failed to express any opinion. Taking account of these companies, only 22 per cent of the CBI’s total sample of 2441 companies were in favour of membership. 5 per cent were unambiguously opposed and the remaining 73 per cent were silent or undecided.

For the CBI leadership to dismiss this huge silent majority as merely apathetic or uninformed is arrogant and unwise. Most British companies are reluctant to take a stand at this stage for good reason: it is impossible to foresee today what the costs and benefits of entry might be in 2002 or later. Accordingly, most pragmatic businesses are reluctant to make any firm decisions about EMU, especially as none is required.

The second objection to the survey is that even the small minority of businesses which claim to support monetary union are responding to a purely hypothetical question. The CBI asked whether Britain should join “once a competitively sustainable exchange rate exists”. Many British business-

men hope that the pound will fall back to around DM2.60 and would love monetary union to lock in the benefits of such a competitive devaluation. In reality, however, the pound may never return to the levels of 1995 and early 1996. If the CBI had asked a more realistic question about joining EMU at the present exchange rate of DM2.90, the support for EMU membership would doubtless have fallen far below yesterday’s paltry 22 per cent.

Thirdly, the CBI would not represent the business community, even if a majority of its members were truly in favour of EMU. The Institute of Directors, which represents entrepreneurial small firms, has repeatedly found majorities opposed to EMU membership. The IoD surveys, like those of the CBI, find large numbers of businessmen undecided. For the IoD, accordingly, does not rule out EMU as a matter of principle and under all circumstances. But it rightly contends that the underlying presumption about the EMU project should be negative: the burden of proof should be upon those who advocate embarking on this unprecedented venture.

Finally, the views of the business community, even if they were clear and united, would not necessarily be worth heeding. Experience shows that “business leaders” are no more likely to be right about broad economic and political issues — or even about the immediate prospects for their own markets — than ordinary people. The CBI was wrong about the exchange-rate mechanism in the 1990s, wrong about trade union reform in the 1980s, wrong about incomes policy in the 1970s and wrong about devaluation in the 1960s. The CBI’s view will therefore be of questionable relevance in 2002 in making the decision on EMU. The CBI should certainly be asked to express an opinion when the time comes. But the Government would be foolish to treat public statements from the CBI leadership as a definitive, or even an important, answer.

## QUEST FOR QUALITY

Oxbridge college fees remain in peril

On Wednesday the House of Lords will conduct a debate that may prove decisive in the quest to maintain quality in British higher education. The Government will decide shortly whether or not it will be erode or eliminate the £35 million that supports the college-based tutorial system at Oxford and Cambridge. At one stage it appeared that this funding would be withdrawn entirely — an act of malice that would have pushed several poorer colleges to the brink of extinction. On that, at least, Tony Blair seems to have blocked the preferences of Baroness Blackstone, the Minister for Higher Education. However, the ideas now canvassed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) are not much more attractive.

The Council is believed to favour what it considers a “compromise” formula. The college fee would be abolished but Oxford and Cambridge would be able to recoup that money through new grants made available for teaching success, research excellence and “special factor funding”. Other universities could compete for such resources. Whatever final sums emerged would be placed not with colleges but the central university. This package seems to be the preference of the Department for Education. Ministers think they can present it as compatible with both the Dearing Report’s core principles and the preservation of excellence.

If so, they are mistaken. The proposal would sever the link between this expenditure and the Oxbridge teaching system. It would break up one fund into several components that could be more easily reduced afterwards. There is almost no chance that the two universities would receive the same

level of financial support as they do at present. The poorest colleges at Oxbridge — the institutions that most need outside spending and, incidentally, tend to recruit more students from the state sector — would suffer disproportionately. It is the least honest and least honourable solution on offer.

The suggestion is simply a switch in strategy. It swaps the sword for the sledgehammer. That such a sleight of hand should emerge from HEFCE is hardly surprising. The body is dominated by those eager to benefit from ending college fees. In this case, the cannibals have been awarded charge of the kitchen. The concept that they have promoted is incompatible with their public desire to avoid damage to the quality of college teaching and research. The net effect would be to weaken two world-class universities. That such a shift might be supported by a Minister for Higher Education is extraordinary. Governments and public policy should not be a forum for grudge and private prejudice.

Only two propositions are compatible with the promotion of excellence in higher education. Either the college fee should be retained or Oxbridge should be allowed to charge top-up tuition fees. There is a compelling case for the latter. It would transfer the costs of college life and tutorial teaching to those who most directly benefit. This should be the means to meet the Dearing Report’s requirements. If the Government will not permit that financial freedom, then it should keep existing arrangements. The House of Lords must use its opportunity to reinforce that message. This time, neither Oxford nor Cambridge can afford to be the home of lost causes.

## JAMS TOMORROW

Motoring is no longer fun but the car is here to stay

A new traffic survey on the widened western stretch of the M25 motorway makes depressing, if hardly surprising, reading. It found that as soon as the extra lanes were added, cars and lorries poured in, quickly leading to congestion worse than the gridlock that persuaded the Government to widen the road in the first place. The survey fulfils the maxim that even the Conservative Government acknowledged: roads attract traffic until the point of saturation: the bigger the road, the more traffic it attracts.

The findings detail the huge waste of time spent in traffic jams. They showed that on a typical day in July, some 47,227 motorists on London’s orbital road lost the equivalent of 9,317 days. A national motorway congestion index showed that 1.2 million drivers were caught in motorway hold-ups on an average day. Seizing on the figures, environmentalists gave a warning that in ten years’ time road congestion will be at least as bad as the highest Government forecasts.

On the other side of the Atlantic, congestion is also forcing a radical re-think in one of the most beautiful spots in America. Yosemite National Park is now so choked with cars and their noxious fumes each summer that the valley floor is little more than a slowly moving car park. Trees and wildlife suffer, the tranquillity of nature’s great cathedral is ruined and visitors, slouched in their cars, make little effort to take any exercise. The Park authorities are therefore considering a ban on private cars,

forcing visitors to take buses, or, better still, cycle or hike through the park. Such a decision has been hastened by the destruction of roads by flooding in January.

In both cases, the car, once worshipped as the symbol of postwar prosperity and individual choice is now regarded as a menace. Driving is no longer fun: the open road is clogged, or, as motorists found last week in France, blockaded by striking truckers. Cars still confer status, dominate industrial economies and are the tedious topic of conversation pub across the land. But more and more the emphasis is on the less glamourous aspects of motoring: the cost, the pollution and the accident toll. The league table drawn up by a Swedish insurance company of the safest and the most dangerous cars is less likely to reassure people about the advances in safety design in the past decade than to worry them that many of the popular models significantly raise the risk of a fatal accident.

Public policy should not swing from pandering to the car to excoriating its use on all occasions. Cars are now the backbone of the world’s transport systems. They still bring a freedom and convenience unimaginable 50 years ago. But policy must lead a gradual change in attitude. It must concentrate on the search for cleaner fuel, the need for regulation, the threat to urban life and the conservation of scarce land. Traffic will not ease by itself; but there must be alternatives to wasting one’s life on the M25.

Business letters, page 50  
Sport letters, page 56

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Big business at odds on effects of EMU membership

From Lord Young of Graffham

Sir, Some ten years ago I would spend much of my time in the Lords weary responding “when the time is right” to never-ending questions about entering the ERM. My questioners, both in the House and outside, were the same coalition that is pressing the Government today to enter into the Euro — the leadership of the CBI and the TUC, the less entrepreneurial multinationals and the Lib Dems.

After I retired, Margaret Thatcher succumbed to her everlasting regret, to pressure from her Chancellor and her Foreign Secretary. We joined the ERM at a time when our economy and that of Germany were out of step. Later the terms of our membership forced us to increase our interest rates, converting a mild recession into the steepest decline of this century. Far too many of the new companies launched with such high hopes in the Eighties did not survive.

We enjoy the strongest economy in Europe today — and it dates from the day we were forced out of the ERM. Why, when our economy is still out of step with France and Germany and shows no sign of ever getting closer, would we wish to join an even more rigid system? Not even George Soros could save us then.

Yours, YOUNG  
(Secretary of State for Employment, 1985-87; Trade and Industry, 1987-89). House of Lords, November 9.

From Sir Stanley Kalms and others

Sir, Much of the coverage surrounding the current debate about economic and monetary union conveys the impression that British business is united in its support for Britain’s early entry into a single currency. This is simply not the case. British businessmen are as divided on the merits of EMU as our politicians are.

Abolishing the pound could pose very serious economic and constitutional risks for this country. We have seen the consequences of entering a fixed-rate exchange system at the wrong level and at the wrong time with the ERM. British businesses paid the price with painfully high interest rates, job losses, falling investment and a slow recovery.

What is at stake is the power of a British government to pursue an economic policy which is in the interests of British businesses and their employees. This is not an obscure constitutional argument, but of vital interest to every company in the country.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE GUISE  
(Prime Minister’s Policy Unit, 1986-90), 90 Longacre, WC2, November 8.

From the Director-General of the CBI

Sir, I would like to counter the assertions (leading article, November 6; letters November 5, 7) that support for UK membership of EMU is confined to a small group of multinationals. In 1995 and 1996 we and the British Chambers of Commerce commissioned from MORI the most extensive survey of business opinion on EMU so far. Between us we represent the vast bulk of British business, from large to small, and the poll’s sample of 1,700 firms covered all sizes, sectors and regions, with over 70 per cent of respondents being small or medium companies. There were clear majorities for UK membership of EMU under appropriate conditions.

Although it is true, as your leader states, that in 1996 only 28 per cent wanted the UK to commit to join in 1999, a further 63 per cent believed the option of joining in 1999 or later should be kept open. Only 7 per cent rejected EMU as an option. Fifty-six per cent supported the principle of EMU, with 30 per cent opposed. We have never claimed that business is unanimous, but any claim that it is

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GEORGE GUISE  
(Prime Minister’s Policy Unit, 1986-90), 90 Longacre, WC2, November 8.

From the Reverend John Webster

Sir, The Government’s desire to help communities to establish food co-operatives suggests ways in which the churches could open shops in these areas where shops have closed for economic reasons, as a service to the community.

This has already been done by Downs Free Church in Woodingdean, a suburb of Brighton, where the church took over the lease of a small greengrocer’s shop when the owner could no longer make it a paying concern. Church members man the shop and good quality fresh fruit and vegetables are sold at reasonable prices.

I purchased my fruit and vegetables for the week and was very satisfied. Furthermore, I noticed that the majority of the customers were elderly and infirm people — just the people the Government is concerned about.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WEBSTER (Minister, Stoneham Road Baptist Church, 7 Amherst Crescent, Hove, East Sussex, November 5).

From the Reverend Colin Howson

Sir, I hope that the “philosophical and scientific” arguments that have persuaded Mr Nicholas Beale of the existence of God (letter, November 6) are better than the one he himself presents: that it is difficult to explain the very large numbers of people who have chosen to believe Christian doctrine other than by the hypothesis that a wandering teacher rose from the dead two thousand years ago.

Can’t he really think of other explanations? What about human cruelty and tolerance of standards of evidence that would not even begin to be considered in either science or the courts today?

I might point out that I have yet to see an argument which to my satisfaction renders the existence of God, any god, more likely than not; mostly they’re like Mr Beale’s.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN HOWSON, London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, Houghton Street, WC2, November 7.

From Mr M. Bancroft-Richardson

Sir, With regard to death rates report, October 24; letters, October 29, November 5) it has always been my understanding that the death rate for the entire human race is “once”.

I do not propose to do it more frequently.

Yours faithfully,  
M. BANCROFT-RICHARDSON, 78 Farm Hill North, Leeds, West Yorkshire, November 5.

From Sir George Engle

QC Sir, The Reverend M. J. Horsman made it easier to pray while riding his motor cycle (letter, November 6).

I once, in the course of a sermon, heard the cure of a village in the South of France say, in all seriousness, that there would be fewer road accidents if all drivers fixed an image of St Christopher on the dashboard and kept their eyes on it.

Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE ENGLE, 32 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6, November 6.

From the Chairman of Iceland Frozen Foods

Sir, Your report of November 5, headed “Food deserts” threaten health to the need for all sectors of society to have access to a healthy diet. Unfortunately, it may lend credence to the mistaken view that only fresh food can provide a healthy diet — a view which ignores the evidence that the nutrient levels in frozen vegetables, for example, can be far higher than in the fresh equivalent.

Of course I have a personal axe to grind. However, the problem of the nation’s health needs to be tackled on the basis of facts rather than myths rooted in an age when produce was grown and sold locally within hours of being harvested. The fact is that today there is no such thing as fresh food unless you grow, catch or shoot it yourself.

I was heartened to note that Miss Tessa Jowell, Minister for Public Health, intends to meet with big retailers to discuss the problems presented by these “food deserts”. As Iceland has stores in 770 communities throughout the UK, offers a nationwide home delivery service and has taken the lead in developing telephone-ordering for food, I look forward to hearing from her.

Yours sincerely,  
MALCOLM WALKER, Chairman and Chief Executive, Iceland Frozen Foods, Second Avenue, Desdes Industrial Park, Flintshire, November 6.

From the Reverend John Webster

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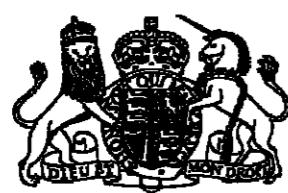
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Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE ENGLE, 32 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6, November 6.



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
November 8: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were present this evening at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

The Prince of Wales, The Duke of York, The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Tim Laurence RN, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, The Duke of Kent, and Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, were also present.

YORK HOUSE  
ST JAMES'S PALACE  
November 8: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, The Royal Hospital, this evening attended a Reception for staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Hillsborough Castle.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
November 8: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh laid Wreaths at the Cenotaph this morning on the occasion of Remembrance Day.

Wreaths were also laid by The Prince of Wales, The Duke of York and The Duke of Kent.

The Prince Edward, The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, were present during the Ceremony.

The Duke of York afterwards took the Salute at the March Past of the Royal Horse Guards Parade, London SW1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
November 9: The Duke of York arrived at Newcastle International Airport this afternoon and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear (Colonel Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison). His Royal Highness later embarked

in *HMY Britannia* at Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Duke of York this evening attended a Reception given by the White Ensign Association and a presentation by the Royal Navy Presentation Team in the Royal Yacht, Newcastle upon Tyne.

CLARENCE HOUSE

November 9: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this morning during the Ceremony at Clarence House on the occasion of Remembrance Day.

Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox was in attendance.

A wreath was laid on behalf of Her Majesty by Major Charles MacEwan.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

November 9: The Prince of Wales, Colonel, Welsh Guards, this afternoon attended the Welsh Guards Remembrance Service at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London SW1.

His Royal Highness this morning attended the Kirov Opera Ball *Gudrun* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London WC2.

YORK HOUSE  
ST JAMES'S PALACE

November 9: The Duchess of Kent this morning laid a wreath at the Cenotaph, Belfast, on the occasion of Remembrance Day.

Mr Peter Roberts  
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Peter Roberts, Managing Editor, *The Times*, 1990-96, and Managing Editor, *The Sunday Times*, 1978-90, will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, at noon on Tuesday, November 11.

## Today's royal engagements

The Duke of York will open the Mini Science Park at Helena Laboratories, Wessington Way, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, at 10.20; will open the "Stadium of Light", the new football ground of Sunderland Association Football Club, Sunderland, at 11.35; will visit Darlington Technical College, Darlington, Co Durham, at 2.30; will give a reception in *HMY Britannia*, Newcastle quayside, Tyne and Wear, at 6.30; and will attend a dinner given by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle at the Mansion House, at 8.30.

The Prince Royal will open a new court building, Kingston Crown Court, Kingston, Surrey, at 2.00; as president, RedR — Engineers for Disaster Relief, will attend an annual meeting, Institution of Civil Engineers, 100 Grosvenor Street, London, SW1, at 4.30; and as patron, Association of Combined Youth Clubs, will attend an annual meeting at the Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, London, SW1, at 8.15.

The Duke of Kent, president, will attend the Life After Stroke Award ceremony at the Hotel Inter-Continental, Hamilton Place, at 12.10.

Princess Alexandra, as patron, will attend a reception at St James's Palace, at 6.30, to mark the 140th anniversary of Action for Blind People.

Forces appointments

Royal Navy & Royal Marines Captain P. W. Hetherington — PHTHQ in London, 020 7236 0911.

Local colonel: R. M. Rundt

Commander S. J. Black-Evans — MOD, London, in rank of A/Capt — Sqn Ldr 4.9.98; R.R. D'E. Head — Sqn Ldr 4.9.98; R. J. Taylor — Sqn Ldr 4.9.98; R. J. Taylor — D.C.P. British Army, 9.9.98; P. Keefe — M.C. 1.9.98; R. J. Taylor — D.C.P. British Army, 9.9.98; D. P. Potts — 17.3.98; T. J. Stoneman — JCSCE 1.9.98.

Sergeant commander C. J. Campbell — Lavinckie 9.3.98; G. H. Evans — Lavinckie 9.3.98; D. J. Walker — Lavinckie 9.3.98; A. J. Walker — Lavinckie 9.3.98.

Major P. A. Whittaker — HORN 2.1.97.

Commander T. M. Burns — Staff of 251/CNRA 29.5.98; S. P. Springer — Raleigh 27.4.98.

Referrals

Commander C. J. Clay — 30.1.98; R. E. D. D. — 22.1.98; M. W. Miller — 16.1.98.

The Army

Major general M. J. Strudwick CBE ADC — Royal Scots to GOC Scotland, 1.12.97.

Royal Air Force

Group captain F. L. Turner — HOSC, 14.11.97; D. R. Evans — MOD, 1.1.97.

Flight commander T. R. Kirk — MOD, 1.1.97.

Flight commander P. C. Strickland — MOD, 1.9.97; G. A. Williams — MOD, 1.9.97; S. C. Court — MOD, 1.9.97; D. C. D. C. Court — MOD, 1.9.97; A. Spearman — MOD, 1.9.97; D. C. D. C. Court — MOD, 1.9.97; R. A. F. Bragger — MOD, 1.1.98; C. M. H. Hawes — MOD, 1.1.98.

Referrals

Commander C. J. Clay — 30.1.98; R. E. D. D. — 22.1.98; M. W. Miller — 16.1.98.

Air commander J. E. Roaum — 11.1.97.

## Nature notes

Kingfishers watching out for fish are more conspicuous as the leaves fall from waterside bushes: in summer they often use a perch hidden in thick foliage, provided there is clear drop to the water. They are looking very brilliant, with their electric-blue back and rich orange breast. Snipe can sometimes be seen sleeping in the daytime on grassy banks in marshes, with their long beaks tucked into their mantle. A few very late swifts were reported at the weekend: most swifts flew back to

southern African three months ago. Leaves have been showering down from the trees, and most of those left are shades of yellow or ochre. The few leaves still hanging on lime trees look like lanterns when the low sun shines through them. Large plane tree leaves are blowing down city streets and blocking drains. Sycamore leaves cause the most trouble on railway lines. Wild plants that go on flowering despite the weather are the yellow Oxford ragwort and white dead-nettle. DJM

The kingfisher

BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

whoever feeds on wisdom will hunger for more; whoever drinks from wisdom will thirst for more. Ecclesiastes 7: 24-25.

BIRTHS

ANSTRUTHION — On November 6th, 1997, to Alex (née Dick) and Paul, a son, James Oswald.

COOKSON — On November 4th, 1997, to Seamus (née O'Farrell) and Expert James Henry. With thanks to all at St Thomas' Hospital.

DAVIES JONES — On October 11th, as expected, to James and Elizabeth, and to Mary, a daughter Sophie Rachel.

FISHER — On October 26th, 1997, to Paul and Pauline (née Cope), a beautiful daughter Sophie Mary Anne.

JOHNSON — On November 7th, to Sally and Christopher, a son, a brother to Lucas and Casella.

GORDON — On Wednesday 29th October to Jennifer and GHD (née McKeown), a son, Michael John Drummond.

GORDON — On November 6th, to Femalene and Campbell, a son, Edward Peregrine Lyle.

HANSON — On 3rd November 1997, to St. Michael's Hospital, Chichester, to Jennifer (née Rawes) and Richard, a son, Montague.

HUNTER — On November 7th at the Princess of Wales Hospital to Lailey (née Udd) and Richard, a daughter, a daughter, Sophie Letha.

MCNAUL — On November 4th in Winchester to Penny (née Milton) and Robert, a daughter, Matilda Anna.

DEATHS

BLANTHORPE — On November 6th, 1997, peacefully after a short illness, at home, Elizabeth Barnett, adored sister of Rosemary, dear sister-in-law of Brian and Alison, dear mother and grandmother of Helen, David and Sue, and great-grandmother of James, Oliver and Lucy. Cremation Private. A memorial service will be held at St James' Church, Blackdale, Southport, on Friday 7th November at 11.15 am. Flowers only, but donations, if so desired, for Sunshine House, RBL, 100 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, to Mothers, 254 Sefton Street, Southport, Merseyside. Tel: (01704) 501501.

BROWN — Claude Brown, aged 92, died after a long illness at home, much loved by all his family.

BROWN — On November 5th 1997, David Brown aged 44 years of Great Glen, Leicestershire. Dearly loved husband of Shireen and mother of Andrew and Victoria. Private funeral service on Tuesday, 11th November, 1997, at 2pm at St Cuthbert's Church, Great Glen, Leicestershire. Tel: 0116 256 2551.

WILLIAMSON-MORSE — In loving memory of Guy Williamson-Morse who died this Thursday afternoon, 6th November 1997, at the age of 69. He was a much loved member of his family. Flowers and enquiries to Nevilles of Ampthill, Tel: 01525 460132.

SERVICES

PLUMES FANTASIES National Service of Remembrance

12.00 noon. Flowers or

garlands if preferred to

the Royal British Legion

10.00 am. Cremation

10.30 am. Cremation



## NEWS

## Iraq ready to fire on US planes

■ Fears of a military conflict in the Gulf grew last night after Baghdad announced that its anti-aircraft systems were on alert to shoot down American U2 spy planes that are set to resume surveillance flights over Iraq today.

Baghdad has ordered a maximum state of alert for all military units, all military leave has been cancelled, and all commanders have been told to expect an attack. Page 1, 13

## Brown announces euro move

■ Gordon Brown will announce today that the first practical steps for a single currency will be taken this week with the creation of a body to oversee the change from sterling to the euro. The pledge will come as the Chancellor battles with William Hague to win the support of the business community. Page 1

## Ministers watchdog

A new system to investigate allegations of impropriety against ministers is being urged by the Public Standards watchdog. Page 2

## Family tragedy

Ian Erskine who never got over the death of his twin brother, Anthony, who was attacked by thugs two years ago, has committed suicide. Page 5

## Unsafe cars

Deaths in car crashes could be halved if buyers spurned models with poor safety records, according to Europe's most detailed study of road accidents. Page 7

## M15 files opened

The release of M15 files held in archives since the foundation of the Security Service in 1909 is expected to provide proof that, before and during the First World War, German spies were operating on a much larger scale than previously recorded. Page 8

## School battle

A tiny rural secondary school, set up by an ecology guru admired by the Prince of Wales, will this week seek government funding to safeguard its future. Page 8

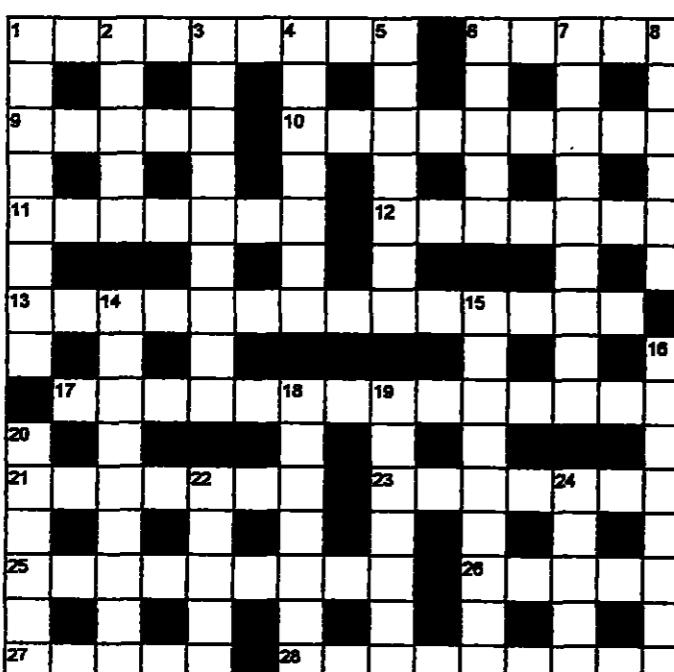
## Remembering heroes

The Queen led the nation's annual act of remembrance at the Cenotaph, stirring memories that squarely rain and a sharp, gusting wind could not quench. Page 9

## Mary Shelley story found in Italy

■ A long-lost story for children by Mary Shelley, the author of *Frankenstein*, has been discovered in the private archives of an Italian family in the Tuscan hills, where it has lain more than 150 years. The short story, entitled *Maurice, or the Fisher's Cot*, consists of 39 closely written pages in Mary Shelley's handwriting. It is set on the Devonshire coast. Pages 1, 3

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,633



ACROSS  
 1 Characteristic of Father Brown, wandering once into local church (9).  
 6 Faint-hearted booby in retreat out West (5).  
 9 Like a certain star, become a high-flier about 50 (5).  
 10 A last grim representation of a master (9).  
 11 Medicine produced by day in eastern county (7).  
 12 Shake requiring little preparation (7).  
 13 Very friendly but stupid, like those with taking ways? (5,2,7).  
 17 Period of probation one is bound to serve (14).  
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 23 A blow experienced in Africa by knighted commanders (7).  
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MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 1997

RADIO &amp; TV

Preview: New contract, about to start. Sport, BBC 2, 10.30pm. BBC 1, 10.30pm. Groundhog Day

OPINION

A flawed survey

Quest for quality

Jams tomorrow

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

ROGER SCRUTON

PETER RIDDELL

LETTERS

MUCH TODAY

**FRENCH POLISH**  
 English clubs outshone in Heineken Cup  
 PAGES 34-35

**UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT**
**LORD OF THE RING**

 Holyfield  
 clears world title path for Lennox Lewis  
 PAGE 29

**SEEING RED**  
 Schumacher forced back on the defence  
 PAGE 29

**PLUS**

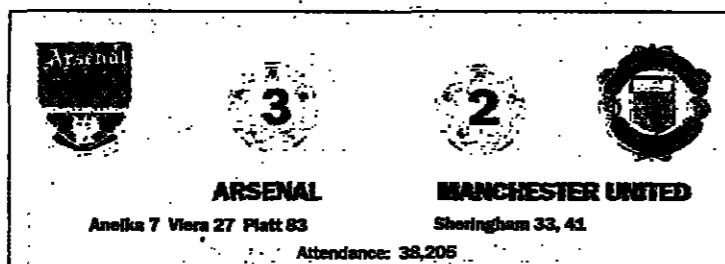
 Rain fails to dampen spirits in Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour  
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# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 1997

**CHAMPIONS STOPPED IN THEIR TRACKS AT Highbury**

## Platt stuns United with late winner



By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

**SUSPENSIONS** had weakened them, injuries had undermined them and the critics had damned them with the faint praise of being second best to a team that had been made champions-elect by the first week of November. At Highbury yesterday, though, Arsenal gave the rest of the FA Carling Premiership hope that Manchester United may not yet have the title sewn up when they scored a dramatic late victory over Alex Ferguson's side.

The win, courtesy of a fine headed goal from David Platt seven minutes from the end of a match that had pulsated with drama and tension, tore away some of the aura of invincibility that had begun to build up around United after they had scored 16 goals in their past three games.

Achieved without their two most effective players this season, Dennis Bergkamp and Emmanuel Petit, shorn of their confidence by last weekend's heavy defeat by Derby County and disrupted by a first-half injury to the influential Patrick Vieira, Arsenal's triumph cut

shot through Gary Neville's legs and past the startled Schmeichel.

Three minutes later, Anelka forced a fine save out of Schmeichel with a low shot from the edge of the area and then, in the 27th minute, surprise turned to disbelief when Arsenal went further ahead. United failed to clear Winterburn's corner and, after Pallister had taken an ineffective swipe at it, it fell to Vieira on the right-hand edge of the box. The Frenchman struck it first time and it curled beyond the despairing net of Schmeichel into the roof of the net.

Such is United's resolve, their unshakable self-belief, that they did not waver. Twelve minutes before the interval, Beckham nodded a long ball down to Cole on the edge of the Arsenal area and Cole laid the ball back to Gary Neville. Neville waited for Sheringham to reposition himself in the box before curling a pinpoint cross on to his head, which the England forward dispatched almost nonchalantly.

Sheringham's celebration, which consisted of running to the Arsenal fans and kissing the badge on his shirt, also attracted censure last night and, in the 41st minute, he repeated it. This time, a sublime flick from Giggs freed him on the edge of the area and he lashed a left-foot volley beyond Seaman to level the scores.

United had a penalty appeal turned down on the stroke of half-time, when Scholes appeared to be tripped by Winterburn. Ferguson said later that that was the turning point of the game, but Wenger said that, when the interval arrived, he suspected that Arsenal were going to lose.

The second half was tame by comparison, until the last ten minutes. Bould had replaced the injured Vieira at half-time and Arsenal, who switched to a back three, ceded nothing to United in defence. In the Arsenal attack, Wright and Anelka became increasingly ineffective.

The introduction of Wright for Anelka in the eightieth minute transformed the match, though. Two minutes after he had come on, Wright got to the byline and crossed for the substitute. He sidefooted his shot towards goal, but it was deflected by Gary Neville and somehow Schmeichel, wrong-footed, managed to claw it away. Neville hugged him, but his relief was premature.

From the resulting Winterburn corner, Platt rose majestically to head the ball over Schmeichel and Phil Neville, who was guarding the post, for the Arsenal winner.

Three minutes from the end, Wright should have added a fourth after more delightful creative work from Wright, but he sliced his shot wide. Still, 4-2 might have been gilding the lily. For Arsenal and for the rest of the Premiership, a United defeat was enough.

In the ninth minute, though, Arsenal took a surprise lead. A shot from Overmars was blocked by Bergkamp, but it rebounded to Anelka, the stand-in for Bergkamp, and the Frenchman fired a fierce right-foot



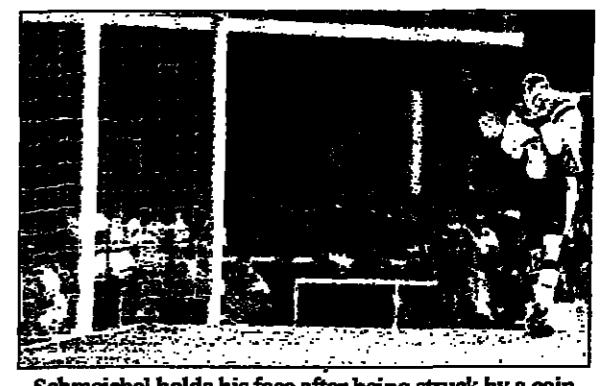
Platt salutes the Highbury faithful after heading the dramatic late winner that brought Arsenal to within a point of Manchester United at the top of the Premiership. Photograph: Marc Aspland

## Wenger's relief at stopping runaway lead

ARSENAL MANAGER, the Arsenal manager, hailed his side's victory over Manchester United as a triumph for English football. "The winning goal from Platt was a very, very important goal," Wenger said. "Not just for us, either, but for all of English football."

"Everyone was scared that they would come here and win it and start running away from the rest of the teams. There will be other managers around the country celebrating with me today."

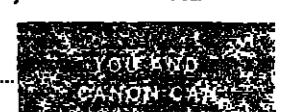
"We were really only expecting a point from today, but for me it was very important for us to win a big game at home. We lost all our important games at Highbury last season and it starts to affect the pride of our fans if it keeps happening."



Schmeichel holds his face after being struck by a coin

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## MOTOR RACING

# Schumacher hit by new claims of rule-breaking

BY MICHAEL CALVIN  
from the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

An FIA official confirmed yesterday that the organisation had responded to complaints from several rival teams, who complied with the order to stop, after refusing a request by Ferrari, who wanted a safety car employed to help them to run without interruptions. However, disciplinary action was deemed impractical because the incident was not recorded by the session's official observer, a locally-based steward.

In itself, the episode is of tangential importance, but, as the latest twist in a far-reaching controversy, it serves to emphasise the prevailing mood of rancour and recrimination. The publication by *The Times* on Saturday of transcripts of conversations between Villeneuve, Schumacher and their respective pit crews at Jerez has deepened divisions down the pitlane.

Williams' officials stressed yesterday that they were "extremely disappointed" that private conversations had been recorded. Frank Wil-

liams, the team owner, who blamed Ferrari for leaking the Jerez tapes, was "disappointed but not surprised" by the eavesdropping. Max Mosley, the FIA president, will push for freedom of access to radio transmissions at a meeting of team principals on Friday.

Lucio di Montezemolo, the

Ferrari president, predictably

made political capital out of

evidence that a deal had been

struck between Williams and

McLaren, which led to Villeneuve allowing Mika Hakkinen through for the first

victory of a grand prix career

that has spanned five seasons.

"It's now become clear to

everyone that Ferrari have

had to compete not against

one team but two," he said.

"I'm not shocked by it."

His air of world-weary cynicism was in marked contrast to the attitude of Willi Weber,

Schumacher's manager. "I'm

a bit shocked by all this," he

said. "I just hope it was only

the final race of the season for

they had an agreement for."

Schumacher spent yesterday

driving the current Ferrari for the final time, at the

Enna-Pergusa circuit in Sicily.

He recognises that punishment by the FIA is almost

inevitable, given the global

outcry that greeted his initial

absolution from blame for the

Jerez collision, but hopes that

it will be limited to a fine.

Wider issues, dealing with

Formula One's constitution in

the build-up to stock market

flotation, will be discussed at

the meeting of team owners on

Friday. Mosley, who has set a

deadline of November 15 for

entries for the championship

next season, will hold collo-

sion between teams.

Passing the buck, page 38

## HOCKEY

## Crutchley sets England on their way to clean sweep

FROM SYDNEY FRUSKIN  
IN CAIRO

flected a free hit into goal past Luckes, who had replaced Mason in goal.

England began to struggle to preserve their slender lead. In the absence of Giles, who was rested, they had squandered two short corners in the first half, but Crutchley came to their rescue by converting the next short corner in the 54th minute to give them a 3-1 lead.

Egypt persevered with quick breaks along the flank and the match ended in as dramatic a fashion as it had begun, when the home team converted a penalty stroke in the dying seconds.

The penalty was awarded by Andy Hoyes, the English umpire, after a save by Luckes at a short corner had led to a scramble.

Barry Dancer, the England

coach, had plenty of cause for satisfaction. "This series has provided me with a wonderful opportunity for collective assessment and evaluation which would have been difficult under the pressure of a six-national tournament," he said. "The level of the opposition has been good and this has been all to the benefit of the team. I have had the full cooperation from the players and all the members of the team."

On Saturday, England surpassed the Egyptians in fluency and precision and Garcia produced a hat-trick, two from penalty strokes. Hall, Giles, from a short corner, and Manpreet Kochar's goal was the other scorers. Kochar's goal was the first for England at senior level.

Belal Ibrahim scored Egypt's only goal, reducing the lead to 3-1 in the second half.

Barry Dancer, the England

BOBBY CRUTCHLEY's goal after eight seconds set England on their way to a 3-2 victory against Egypt yesterday. Having emphasised their superiority by winning 6-1 on Saturday, England emerged from the five-match series with a clean sweep.

Only three players — Mayer, Humphrey and Crutchley — touched the ball before it hit the backboard of the Egyptian goal yesterday. The home side had hardly gathered breath when Garcia converted a penalty stroke in the fourth minute.

However, fatigue set in for both sides and England, despite making quick changes, failed to add more goals before the interval.

Egypt had two men suspended towards the end of the first half, but gained renewed confidence early in the second period, when Mahmoud Samir, their outside left, de-

THERE was only one question after Slough celebrated their hundredth league game with an 8-1 victory over newly-promoted Slough: which team can stop Slough winning their fifth Premiership title in eight years?

"None", Maggie Souyave, the England coach, said after

BY CATHY HARRIS

Olton fell victim to another superb exhibition of crisp passing and clinical finishing. After only four matches this season, the champions have set new standards that few, if any, other sides can hope to equal.

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They boast a squad full of current and past internationals: only two of their 16 on Saturday had not been capped at senior level and their coach, John Shaw, can draw on experience gained playing in two Olympic Games and more than 200 internationals.

"Slough will dominate this season and probably the next," Shaw's opposite number, Gavin Featherstone, said.

Julia Robertson revelled in a rare first-half hat-trick to set up her team's 75th league triumph, with the Scotland striker. Sue MacDonald, and Karen Brown, the England international, scoring to make it 5-0 at the interval.

The former Ireland captain, Sarah Kelleher, struck immediately after the break and Jane Smith hit the seventh in the 56th minute before Mandy Gatherer replied with a consolation goal for the home side. Brown, as usual, had the final say, when she was on target from the penalty spot in the last minute.

A hat-trick by Denise Marston-Smith for Clifton ended Ipswich's unbeaten record. She converted a penalty stroke, scored from open play and powered in a penalty corner. Ipswich lost 3-2 after leading 2-1 through Tracy Fry and Sarah Bamfield.

Results, page 41

THEIR

All roads lead to world heavyweight championship unification contest for Briton

## Holyfield pushes open the door to Lewis

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT  
IN LAS VEGAS

LEONNOK LEWIS is at last in sight of the goal that he has aimed for since he won an Olympic gold medal in 1988. The World Boxing Council (WBC) champion can fully expect to be given the chance to wrest the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles from Evander Holyfield next April or May.

If he takes that chance, he will become Britain's first undisputed world heavyweight champion since Bob Fitzsimons 100 years ago. After Holyfield's victory over Michael Moorer in eight rounds here on Saturday, Lewis and Holyfield are agreed that they should meet as soon as possible. "The undisputed crown is within my grasp," Lewis said. "I can almost reach out and touch it."

Because of the manner of Holyfield's victory, which thrilled the crowd of 12,000 at the Thomas and Mack arena, there is little doubt that the bout will be played to satisfy public demand. Because Mike Tyson is not around to command attention and there are no worthy opponents for Holyfield and Lewis in the division, even rival promoters like Don King, Dino Dava and Park Promotions, of London, are talking about getting together to stage the bout. Only the economics of putting together what could be one of the biggest heavyweight attractions in history remain to be sorted out.

It is believed that the boxers would split around \$40 million (£24 million), with Holyfield taking 60 per cent. Sports fans, who have not had an undisputed world heavyweight champion to enjoy since Riddick Bowe threw the WBC belt in a dustbin in London five years ago, will not let politics get in the way.

Home Box Office (HBO), the television company most likely to back the bout, has already set aside \$3 million to publicise Lewis, making him the highest-profile boxer contracted to their company. A 100% high portrait of Lewis will be put up in the centre of the city in which the contest is held.

Jim Thomas, Holyfield's attorney, said: "I don't believe there are any insurmountable

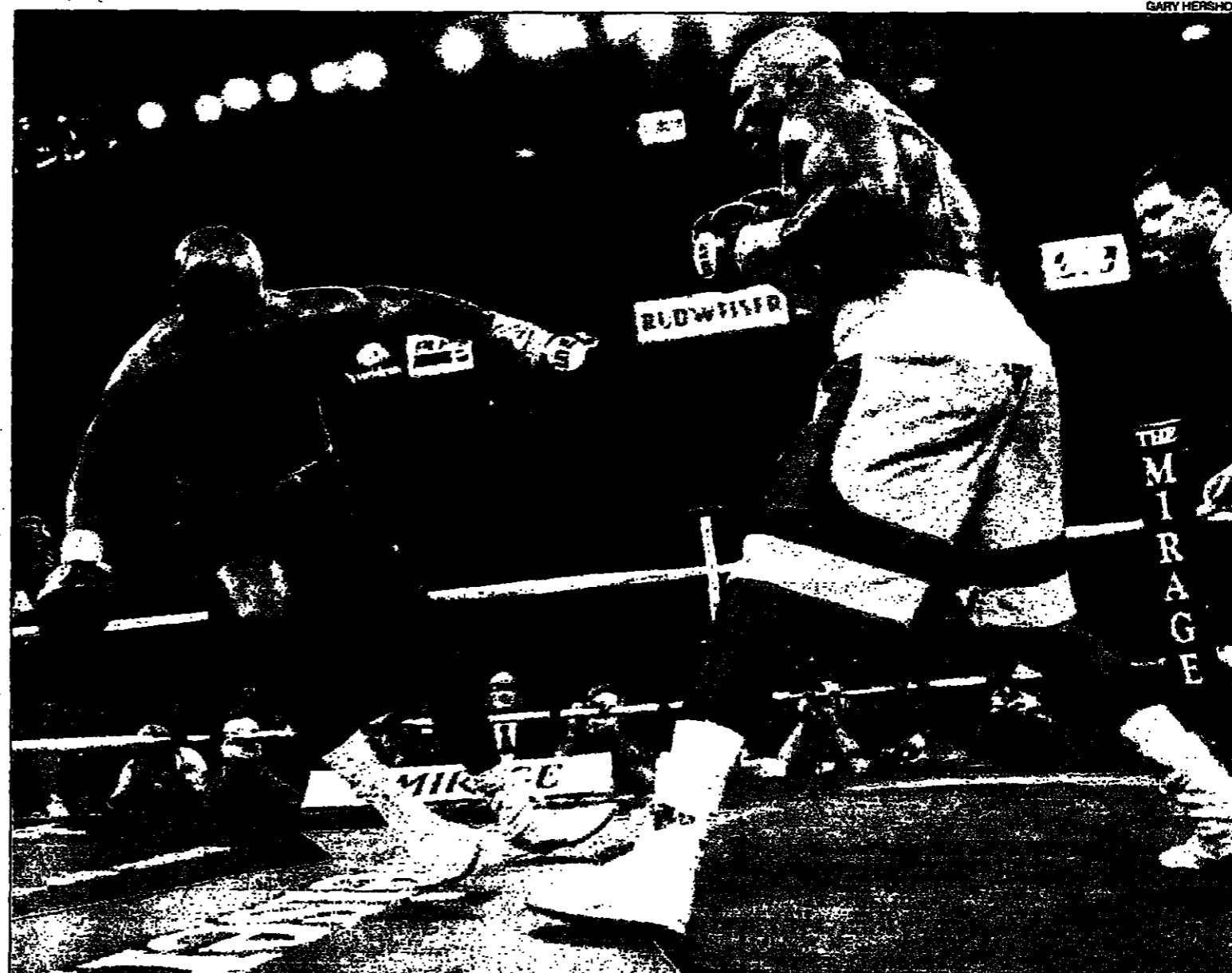
obstacles if Evander wants to fight Lennox. One of the most important ingredients in putting a fight together is two fighters wanting to fight each other and that is so here. The rest is hard work. The people of the world are going to recognise that the winner of the fight is the best."

The Holyfield-Moorer bout had everything the public in the stadium and viewers at home could have wished for. Their new hero, the man who humbled Tyson twice, won spectacularly. The bout was full of drama, courage and boxing skills of the highest quality, particularly from Holyfield. The double champion was lifted to a new level in the eyes of the public. Many Americans believe now there is little risk of the title falling into British hands.

"I want to unify the title," Holyfield said. "When I fought Tyson, everybody considered him the best. Now I've got two belts, one for the Heavenly Father, one for Jesus and now I want one for the Holy Spirit. I have fought everyone in my era and Lennox Lewis is the only fighter I haven't fought. I look forward to matching skills with him."

It was perfect for Lewis that demand for the match came after such a thrilling night for Holyfield fans. Some American boxing writers were even saying: "Holyfield will walk through Lewis." If Lewis can take the titles from Holyfield, there should be no complaints later and the Londoner could justifiably be called the best in the world. American journalists have denied Lewis recognition for five years. They simply referred to him as the champion who picked the title out of the trash can.

What delighted Americans was that Holyfield came through some difficult moments in the first two rounds — he was wobbled by a right-hand blow almost as soon as the fight started — to find a way round Moorer's southpaw stance, engage him in fierce exchanges for two rounds, survive a cut near his right eye and then bring Moorer down with well-placed blows. In so doing, he displayed the finest boxing qualities of technique, power and adaptability.



Moorer is put down for the fourth time by Holyfield. The challenger survived one more knock-down before the bout was stopped.

Moorer, for his part, fought with skill, determination and courage that few believed he was capable of showing. He was on the floor five times in the fifth round, after a right, left and right combination: in the seventh, twice from short right uppercuts; in the eighth, again twice by uppercuts. He received ten blows in this round, but after each knock-down, he got up and fought back.

Imagine the annoyance of American journalists when Lewis told them after the bout: "It was a so-so fight, mediocre.

I don't think Evander is ready

for me yet. I will stop him in three rounds. I am stronger than him and generate more power. I am looking at pedigree. I won the Olympic title at super-heavy, he was a lightweight in the Olympics. That's the difference Holyfield has to realise. I believe I am the person that kept him in boxing when he could have retired.

After Lewis' "so-so" assessment, Moorer added that, to get the fight with Holyfield, he would have to make concessions. "I am even prepared to work with Don King," he said.

TV action replay, page 36

## King upset over Warren deal

THE break-up of the partnership between Don King and Frank Warren has left the American promoter reeling on the ropes (Srikumar Sen writes). King, who has started legal proceedings against Warren for alleged breach of contract, said yesterday that the end of the friendship had hurt him more than the dispute over business matters.

The dispute is over a deal that Warren signed with Home Box Office (HBO), a leading American cable television company, for Naseem Hamed without King's involvement. King is claiming that, according to the partnership contract, only he had the right to negotiate deals in the United States for Hamed.

"I have 50 per cent [promotional rights] of Hamed all over the world," King said. "I was supposed to do all of Naz's business in the United States. I love Frank, I still love Frank. I am just hurt and disappointed that he chose this road. Being a businessman, I must protect my interests. When we got our man, he was just a little young kid. For years, I brought big-time shows to England and a whole new concept. The contract is secondary. What hurts is the disregard for a friend."

King said that he would have left his empire to Warren in the event of any personal setback. "Who would I have given my business to if something happened to me? Frank Warren."

## TENNIS

### Kafelnikov secures seventh world championship place

BY JULIAN MUSCAT  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

tight semi-final against Jan Siemerink in the Stockholm Open on Saturday. Although Rusedski took the opening set, Siemerink of Holland levelled the contest in a second-set tie-break, before completing his victory 4-6, 7-6, 6-4.

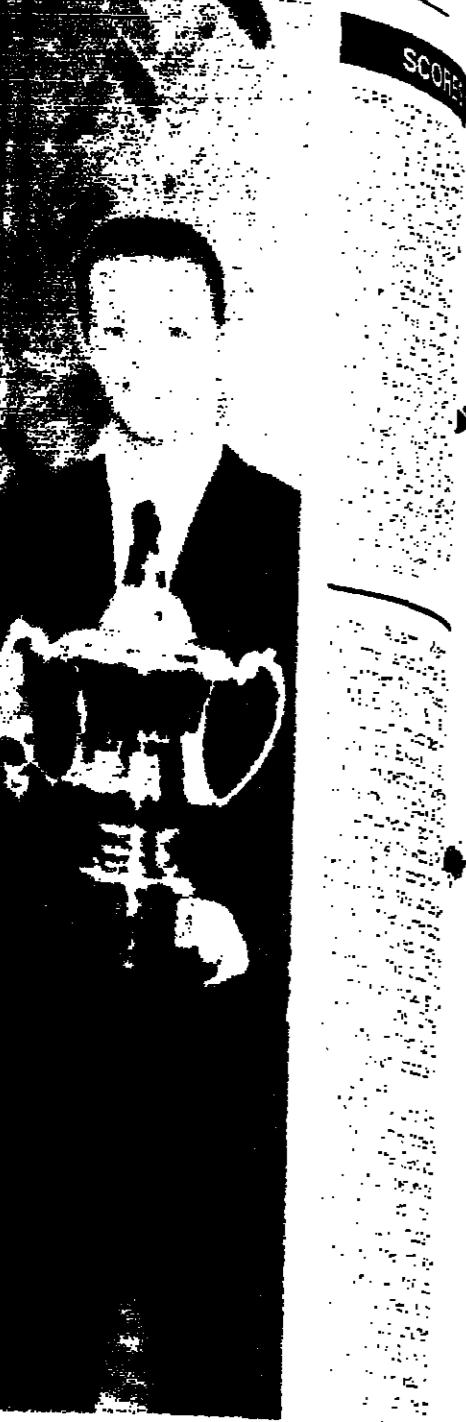
Rusedski maintained that he was far from despondent about losing to the Dutchman, ranked a lowly No 105 in the world after reaching No 15 in January.

"The key to the match was the three double faults I served in the first game of the third set," he said. "I gift-wrapped that game for him, but I kept fighting. I had a chance to get back into it when I had four break points in the last game. I've got to be pleased. I'm getting my form back and I am looking forward to Hanover. It has been a gradual build-up. Hopefully, I can go a step or two further this week."

If the Great Britain No 1 feels that his return to form is well-timed, he will also reflect that the stomach virus he suffered came at an opportune moment. Rusedski was confined to his bed for two days early last week. He now believes that he is close to full fitness, a condition that he should reach after two days' practice in Hanover.

Siemerink was unable to resist Björkman, seeded No 4, in the Stockholm final yesterday. Björkman had beaten Rafter, the No 1 seed, in the semi-finals on Saturday to emphasise his rise up the world order. Playing in front of his home audience, Björkman started nervously before taking control midway through the second set. From that point, he gained in stature to dismiss his unseeded opponent 3-6, 7-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Thus Björkman, the world No 4, approaches Hanover in peak form. This was his 67th victory of the year, more than any other player on the Tour. In his two previous tournaments, Björkman reached the semi-finals in Stuttgart and the final in Paris. He will also lead his country into the Davis Cup final, against the United States, in Gothenburg later this month.



## BASKETBALL

### ms inspires rivals ride out storm

#### BOWLS

### England savour success

FROM DAVID RAYNS JONES  
IN KOWLOON

ANDY WILLS and Stuart Airey won the Manulife Hong Kong International Classic here yesterday when they defeated Gerry Baker and Neil Burkett, the holders from South Africa, 20-9.

Burkett, one of the most competitive bowlers in the world, toiled hard to stem the tide and there were signs that a recovery might be on the cards, but Wills and Airey skilfully closed the door with some brilliant play in the second half and the holders tumbled in the towel with two ends left to play.

It was England's first victory in the competition's 17-year history and was achieved by two young players who have yet to make it into either the world championship or Commonwealth Games squads. Wills, 27, from Cheltenham, and Airey, 26, from Workington, both play in Tony Alcock's rink in England's outdoor team.

Their quarter-final victory against Scotland produced the most exciting finish of the weekend after England, who had opened up a big lead, allowed David Gourlay and Graham Robertson to catch them at 17-17 with one end left to play.

Gourlay employed the increasingly popular — if questionable — tactic of bringing the mat way up the rink, setting a short jack and trying to bury it in the ditch with his first bowl. Not only did Gourlay miss with all four deliveries, but Wills was lured into trying the firing shot and followed with four off-target bowls. With eight bowls delivered and not one on the green, the crowd laughed heartily.

Robertson reverted to the draw, but Airey drove with two of his woods and faced a match tie when he stepped on to the mat to deliver the last bowl of the game. Aiming to draw the shot, he was slightly over-weight, but stopped on the Scottish shot and claimed the winner.

Results, page 29

### Williams has run halted by Davenport

Serena Williams, left, the younger sister of Venus Williams, had her outstanding run of success halted by Lindsay Davenport in the semi-finals of the Ameritech Cup in Chicago.

Williams, 16, playing only her thirteenth professional match and a wild-card entry for the tournament, was seeking her third successive defeat of players ranked in the top ten after beating Mary Pierce and Monica Seles.

Williams sustained an ankle injury in the second set of her 6-4, 6-4 defeat by Davenport and had to scratch from the doubles.



## Hemmed-in Arsenal odd club out among big four

The strangest and strongest conclusion from watching two games of football, one in Scotland, the other in England, within the space of 25 hours over the weekend is that it is the English version that remains closer to the native essence, the British physical core.

From the aspect of football alone, Paul Gascoigne, still England's most precious talent for touch and vision, is better protected and will emerge next summer stronger for playing north of the border.

The passion plays that are Old Firm matches between Rangers and Celtic, and the usually ferocious Arsenal v Manchester United encounters in North London are as different as a claymore and a pikeman.

Not that Scotland is backward in its funding, with its immense and modern footballing theatres in Glasgow, or in its recruitment of over-

seas stars. Indeed, it was astonishing to sit among more than 50,000 spectators with so many of them committed to the continuance of a sectarian divide despite the fact that Rangers, with their Italians, actually fielded more Catholics than did Celtic. The tricolours fluttered at one end, Union Jacks waved furiously at the other and the "F" word flowed vociferously.

There were 14,000 Celtic supporters in the Ibrox stadium, their voices drowned by triumphant singing of "Rule Britannia", and, as the two sets of fans, rooted in the past, matched each other for vitriol, how weird that each team contained but four Scotsmen.

Scotland has galloped towards the Continental ideal, embracing players from eight different nations and, in Celtic's case, under the management of Wim Jansen, surpassed the cavalier instincts that thrilled audiences to bits but left the club

second-best to their bitterest rivals for the greater part of a decade.

Rangers, though they won the game with a goal from their returning captain, Richard Gough, sometimes looked strangers to each other. Nevertheless, Gascoigne, enjoying a running rapport with the Paisley referee, Kenny Clark, was allowed to use his elbows and was able to play, in his own words, "more for the team than myself", pacing his opponent much as pleased.

The referee used the yellow card nine times and eventually, and inevitably, had to send someone off — Stephen Maha, the Celtic defender, being dismissed.

So with the Glasgow sky heavy, the age-old prejudices still inflamed by lewd taunts and gestures, one journeyed south slightly deflated by a game that had bordered on the tedious, something rarely said of this fixture.

ROB HUGHES



examines a great footballing divide

At Highbury, almost the opposite. The animus of previous Arsenal v Manchester United encounters was happily absent: we are, after all, approaching Armistice Day. The refereeing of Martin Bodenham was liberal, al-

lowing the game to flow, trusting the players not to commit bodily harm and, over the 90 minutes, getting away with it. To that extent, it was full-blooded and so very English in style.

Hardly surprising, for there were seven Englishmen in the Arsenal line-up, eight in the United team and even though the first two starting goals for Arsenal came from French boots, the battle that ensued had British character, endeavour and honesty stamped right through it. With the players as committed as human spirit allows and playing at a breakneck pace, there was precious little space to breathe.

This was a feeling Arsenal's directors understand for their wish is to be in the forefront of the British drive to lead Europe in stadium design and comfort.

The four clubs I saw at the weekend have had cash injections from the munificent

seven — men of property, steel and diamond and currency trading. They actually dwarf Jack Walker in the depth of their personal wealth, the money they are willing to invest in football as

English in style. Rangers, worth now 15 times the £6 million for which

David Murray bought the club in 1988, have Joe Lewis,

a billionaire resident in the Bahamas, rich through currency trading and apparently with only a spectator's interest in the great game, although he virtually owns

Virtenza, in Italy; Slavia Prague and AEK Athens.

Rangers, worth now 15

million at their head. And Arsenal? Like the game yesterday, they are cramped for space. David Dein and Danny Fiszman, the diamond dealer, own shares worth millions, and, with eyes for the future, seek to expand on the same lines as Rangers, Celtic and United.

Their problem is that

unique among the four, their home is enclosed by terraced

housing, denied space and goodwill in which to grow.

They are stuck with a

ground at which the maximum capacity can be only

38,000.

And that, given the interest in the game yesterday, given the clamour, and the great expectations surrounding the leading British clubs, is insufficient. The money is there, business is willing, but how envious Arsenal must be of the free space, the huge uncluttered acreage that surrounds the Govan home of Rangers.

Celtic have Ferguson, McCann and Dermot Desmond, endowing the club with a stadium that will hold 60,000 when finished. Manchester United, of course, have grown, even higher in world standing with Martin Edwards, who holds a stake worth £65

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 1997

SPORT 33

## Hutchison draws the attention for United

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT IS perhaps a poor reflection on the Nationwide League first division that the main talking point about the display of Sheffield United, one of the division's leading sides, should be that Don Hutchison, their midfield player, ended up wearing the goalkeeper's jersey. On a cold and wet afternoon at Parnam Road yesterday, there was precious little else to warm the cockles.

Hutchison went in goal in the 60th minute after Tracy had suffered into the foot of his left-hand post when trying to keep out Stockwell's deflected cross. After six minutes of treatment, he was clearly still dazed and unsure of what county he was in. He had to leave the pitch and, with United having no reserve goalkeeper on the bench, Hutchison volunteered to take over.

At the time, Ipswich Town were level at 1-1 and pushing for the lead. Strangely, their promise faded after Tracy's departure. "We had them under pressure and then it all seemed to disappear," George Burley, the Ipswich manager, said. "We never really tested Hutchison. They protected him well, but we never got in enough crosses."

United not only protected Hutchison, they managed to regroup their lead too. Ward came on as Tracy's replacement and, 14 minutes later, he seized on Curdy's weak header to the edge of the area and despatched a sweetly-struck volley past the flailing arms of Wright, the Ipswich goalkeeper.

Ipswich might be down among the division's duds, men wracked by injury and illness for most of the season, but they at least retain a modicum of fighting spirit. With two minutes left, they equalised for the second time. The ball ricocheted around the United area, before brushing Dozzell's arm, Borbok's leg and falling to Gregory, who gave Hutchison no chance from close range.

Nigel Spackman, the United manager, said: "I thought we battled quite well after losing Simon. I thought about saving our other keeper, Alan Kelly, on the bench, but sometimes you make the wrong decisions. That is what managing is all about."

Spackman, who succeeded Howard Kendall at Bramall Lane, has yet to sign a contract. "I have not really had time yet," he said. "There are still a few minor points to sort out." United, who have been beaten only twice in 19 league and cup matches and have risen to fourth place under his guidance, will hope he commits himself soon.

United took the lead in the eighth minute, when Deane crossed from the left for Taylor to guide the ball in at the near post. "I thought our lead flattered us," Spackman said. Ipswich had also suffered, by staying in contention in a dreadful first half, but drew level in the 51st minute, when Legg nodded in Stockwell's cross.

IPSWICH TOWN (3-2-2): R. Wright — A. Turner (sub: D. Sonier, 80min), A. Mowbray, J. Curdy, J. K. Dyer, A. Stockwell, G. Gregory, M. Hobson — A. Matthe (sub: N. Gregory, 78), J. Dozzell.

SHEFFIELD UNITED (2-5-2): S. Tracy — D. Hutchison, B. Ward, D. McDonald, C. Taylor, V. Borbok, N. Mowbray, D. Hutchison, M. Paterson, D. Whitehouse, B. Deane, G. Taylor (sub: R. Pearce).

Referee: M. Pearce.

BELL'S PREMIER DIVISION

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LEEDS UNITED 14 6 1 7 2 5 4 2 3 2 6 10 12

NEWCASTLE UNITED 14 6 1 7 2 5 4 2 3 2 6 10 12

WEST BROMWICH ALBION 14 6 1 7 2 5 4 2 3 2 6 10 12

CHARLTON ATHLETIC 14 6 1 7 2 5 4 2 3 2 6 10 12

LEICESTER CITY 14 6 1 7 2 5 4 2 3 2 6 10 12

STOKE CITY 14 6 1 7 2 5 4 2 3 2 6 10 12

WALSALL 14 6 1 7 2 5 4 2 3 2 6 10 12

NOTTS COUNTY 14 6 1 7 2 5 4 2 3 2 6 10 12

WATFORD 14 6 1 7 2 5 4 2 3 2 6 10 12

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WOLVERHAMPTON WANDER



# Slanging match mars Bath's tactical victory

## Dazzling Pau end Leicester resistance

Pau ..... 35  
Leicester ..... 18

FROM MARK SOISTER  
IN PAU

THE force is with France. Pau yesterday joined Brive in the semi-finals of the Heineken Cup when they comprehensively defeated Leicester, last season's runners-up. In doing so, they avenged one of Leicester's great triumphs at the Stade Municipale de Hanau last season: they did it by keeping their fragile tempers in check and maintaining their discipline. Leicester were the more irritable, fractious and provocative. When it came to dazzling back play, there was only one team to it.

It was ungracious of Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, to carp about David Davies, the referee, a late replacement for the injured Clayton Thomas. Dwyer accused Pau of cheating and criticised Davies for not penalising them. People in glass houses should not throw stones. The penalty count was 17-13 against Leicester, while Martin Johnson was warned for elbowing at the lineout and Davies was unable to identify the player who dug his knee into the back of Yannick Martin, the Pau left wing.

Dwyer, who did compliment Pau on their victory, could not resist a dig of his own. He said: "I knew we were in trouble when Thomas cried off and we would get an inexperienced referee. At times, I did not know who was in charge of the game. He took a lot of notice of the crowd."

The decision by Roger Pickering, the tournament director, not to allow Fritz van Heerden to play because of doubts about the timing of his registration had not helped Dwyer's mood. His replacement, Dean Richards, the former England No 8, was substituted after an hour.

It was a cakewalk of a match. Sterile forward exchanges and stoppages were illuminated by glimpses of what the French do so well. They gave free rein to their talents in the fifth minute. Torossian broke down the short side from a scrum. Brusque took it on and passed to Dantaco. The centre could not ground the ball, but Cleda, the lock, took it forward, could.

Leicester were strangely subdued in the first quarter, relying on Johnson and Corry for lineout possession. They struggled in the scrums, where the pack could not exert its customary control.

Pau's second try, by Leloir, came after Leicester turned over possession in midfield. Straszyk struck a 40-metre penalty and Neil Back scored a try five minutes before half-time, but any thoughts that Leicester might sneak a win were soon dispelled after the interval, when Pau conjured a glorious try. A riving-thrust down the right involving Dantaco and Brusque tore a huge hole in the Leicester defence for Bernat-Salles to come off his wing and burst through from the 22. Serevi's try from a tapped penalty gave Leicester a flicker of hope, but Brusque's last-minute score snuffed that out.

SCORERS: Pau: Tries: Claude (5min), Leloir (20), Bernat-Salles (54), Brusque (60). Conversions: Auzias (3). Penalty goals: Auzias (4), Serevi (61). Leicester: Back (3), Serevi (61). Conversions: Straszyk. Penalty goals: Straszyk (2, 23, 47). SCORING SEQUENCE (Pau first): 6-0, 12-0, 12-3, 12-8 (half-time), 15-18, 21-21, 21-26, 25-18, 26-19, 35-18. Pau: N Brusque, P Bernat-Salles, D Dantaco, C Leloir, C Auzias, F Torossian, P Trop-Capdeville (rep: S Brie, 29min), J Ray, J-A Gourdeau, T Corry (rep: P Corry), T Corry, T Corry (rep: S Vignole, 53), N Bazuza, F Reiles. LEICESTER: M Kora, A Healey, W Greenwood, S Potter, L Lloyd, J Stansbury, W Serevi, N Rorison, M Johnson, D Jones, P Roper, T Corry, M Johnson, D Pritchard (rep: J Wells, 62), M Corry, N Back, E Miller. Referee: D Davies (Wales).

As Harlequin slipped out

## Brive keep grip on Heineken Cup at expense of English champions



A run by Rees comes to a shuddering halt as he is tackled by Alegret and Magne, of Brive, during Wasps' defeat yesterday. Photograph: Alex Livesey / Allsport

## French resistance too much for Wasps

Wasps ..... 18  
Brive ..... 25

BY DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE French tricolour rose proudly above the Heineken Cup yesterday: the success of Brive, the holders, Pau and Toulouse in the quarter-finals ensures that the final will be played in France in January and only Bath stand in the way of a clean sweep by the country that has dominated this tournament since its inception.

They, at least, will have the privilege of a home semi-final over the weekend of December 20-21: the draw has given them, notionally, the weakest of the French trio in Pau, while Toulouse, the 1996 winners, will meet Brive, the holders, in a match that will make the rafters ring throughout southwest France. But even if Bath succeed against a team that has lost this season in Perth and Llanelli, this

weekend has cost Twickenham the possibility of a sell-out club final.

The pride of English club rugby was swept out of Europe — Harlequins by a landslide, Leicester with relative ease and Wasps by a neck. The English champions, in front of a crowd of 10,500 at Loftus Road, could have won, but, in the end, did not deserve to; three tries to none tells a story of its own, the most damaging of the scores being the second, which was, in the context of a tight match, a virtual gift.

At 15-10 with half-time looming, Wasps had fought their way back into the match. They won yet another lineout, where Reed and Dallaglio were solid all afternoon, only to see the ball go down behind Wood. In a flash, Bonnet kicked through and neither Wood nor Roiser could recover possession. Magne was on hand and Carboneau sent van der Linden over the line for a critical score.

"That was inexcusable," Dallaglio said. "Ultimately, it cost us the game, but, though I'm disappointed with the result, I'm not disappointed with the performance. We have no competitive rugby for the next month, because of the international programme, but I know that when I return to the club in December, Wasps will be a stronger place than when I leave it."

It is, though, a measure of Brive's maturity that they retained their composure in the face of an adverse penalty count of 27-7 and the ease with which they scored their first try, after four minutes, revealed the confidence of the whole team. Bonnet switched the ball left behind a ruck. Lamaison sent Venditti careering through a gap and Sebastien Carrat ran in the try.

Thereafter, Wasps tightened their

### CUP DRAWS

HEINEKEN CUP: Semi-finals: Toulouse v Brive, Bath v Pau.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE: Semi-finals: Colomiers v Stade Francais, Agen v Newcastle. Ties to be played on Dec 20 and 21

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defensive alignment and was their control that it was 37 minutes before they conceded their first penalty, by which time Rees had converted five opportunities after the French players continued to offend, either in the tackle or by their failure to retreat ten metres with sufficient enthusiasm.

Wasps, however, could not find the space they wanted behind the Brive pack and nor was their tackling as all-embracing as they might have wished; well though he played, Sheasby was forced sideways time and again, whereas Brive's forward runners invariably crossed the gain line. Sometimes they did far more and it was a wonderful barging run by Malliaris that paved the way for Brive's third try midway through the second half.

Rees's sixth penalty had tipped the balance Wasps' way at 18-17. Lamaison's second filled it back. Then Malliaris seized his moment, the ruck was established five metres from the Wasps line and a long pass

released the younger of the Carrat brothers, Jerome, who had the pace to beat the cover into the corner.

The result remained in doubt mainly through the strength of the Wasps scrum, where Green offered a convincing argument for a first international cap. Wood crossed the Brive line, only to be recalled for an errant hand in the ruck, and, in the final moments, Wasps camped on the opposing line. It was the story of a match, which contained seven minutes of injury-time, that they could get no farther.

SCORERS: Wasps: Penalty goals: Rees (6) (20min, 13, 28, 31, 34, 43). Brive: Tries: S Carrat (4), von Linde (40), S Carrat (57). Conversions: Lamaison (2). Penalties: Rees (5) (28, 62). SCORING SEQUENCE (Wasps first): 0-7, 3-7, 6-7, 9-7, 12-7, 15-7, 15-17, half-time, 18-17, 18-19, 18-20, 18-21, 18-22, 18-23, 18-24, 18-25, 18-26.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Tries: Tat (2) (7min, 30), Andrew (45), Lam (69), Tugamala (78). Conversions: Andrew (5). Penalty goals: Andrew (3).

SCORERS: Colomiers: Tries: Tugamala (19), Tat (21-25), S Legge (37). Conversions: Tat (37), G Chidie (rep: J Bandy), 30; R Andrew (3). Penalties: N Tugamala (10). Newcastle: D Ryan (G Wier, P Lam, R Arnold, P Walton). CASTRES: O Sarriane, P Escalle, E Edugue, J-M Aub, P Gourdeau, J Minot, C Lujan, P Tardieu, C Boulard (rep: S Boulard), L Boulard (rep: T Boulard), 40; C Gaston, B Dalle-Riva (rep: L Lacoste), 52; M Haffring, T Luttrell. Referee: P Adams (Wales).

## Newcastle learn from Andrew the old master

Newcastle ..... 44  
Castres ..... 0

BY KEVIN FERRE

FIRST subdue, then frustrate, then capitalise as the French lose their discipline. The lessons of so many fine nations successes in the late Eighties and early Nineties were put to further use as Rob Andrew guided his men into the European Conference semi-finals.

Two penalty goals during the first quarter, while Castres were enjoying their best spell of the match, soothed nerves and, by the second half, Andrew was enjoying himself sufficiently to score his first try of the season.

During the early exchanges, Castres showed the greater adventure. However, control was gradually applied by Newcastle's pack and midfield, while Gary Armstrong quickly realised that this was not the day to play it fast and loose.

The match was decided by two tries from Alan Tait. First, his half-break released Vaage Tugamala and, as he carried three Frenchmen deep into their own 22, Tait was perfectly positioned to take the return pass. The second was all the centre's own work as he stepped twice off his left foot, scything through the midfield and then beyond Olivier Sarramea, the full back.

Without Thomas Castaigne, suffering from a bout of salmonella that has almost certainly ruled him out of France's meeting with South Africa next week, Castres contributed to their own downfall through in-discipline.

Newcastle had demonstrated no shortage of pre-match hospitality, offering their guests the shirts off their backs when Castres discovered that they had left their kit behind, but were utterly ruthless once the match had got under way.

Par Lam's destructive running rammed home their superiority, his own try sandwiched by those created for Andrew and Tugamala, while the clean sheet was a tribute to the disciplined approach which prevented a French monopoly of semi-final places.

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## Toulouse given perfect opportunity to shine

Toulouse ..... 51  
Harlequins ..... 10

FROM MARK SOISTER  
IN TOULOUSE

AFTER this ritual slaughter — one that confirmed Toulouse as warm favourites to win Saturday were the 18,000 spectators privileged to have witnessed a performance that bordered on perfection. On this evidence, Toulouse will be Europe's champions for the second time in three years. The only thing that could stop them is their own sometimes brittle state of mind.

Jerome Cazalbou, their captain, said: "We can be our own worst enemies, but if we play like that again we can win the cup. Today, it was not perfection but it was close."

As Harlequin slipped out

of a back entrance like men in a trance, Will Carling said: "They were hugely impressive. I cannot see anybody beating them. They play with such pace and power." Keast, the director of rugby, said: "It was the best club performance I have ever seen."

Toulouse were awesome: their defence was aggressive, they turned over Harlequins' possession with regularity, they hit their jumpers in the lineout in a manner in which the erratic Keith Wood could not and they scrummaged dynamically. Leonard, Wood and Ozdemir were left gasping for air. As the pressure mounted, so did Harlequins' mistakes.

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As Harlequin slipped out

## world rugby is within your grasp

England take on the cream of Southern Hemisphere rugby exclusively live

England v Australia 15 November

England v New Zealand 22 November

England v South Africa 29 November

England v New Zealand 6 December

Referee: D Bevan (Wales)

Referee: P Adams (Wales)

# Build-up to big bout has Channel 5 on ropes

**I**t was a small moment of broadcasting history — the first boxing on Channel 5 and, more significantly, the first world heavyweight championship to be shown live on terrestrial television for years. Definitely an occasion worth getting up for. The question was, when?

Getting proceedings under way shortly after 2.30am, Steve Scott, the new Channel 5 anchorman, was all smiling reassurance. "I'm your host for the next three hours," he said. "The main bout is due on about 4 o'clock." Three and a half painful hours later, as Holyfield and Moore finally started punching each other, I remembered the first rule of live Las Vegas boxing. The presenter always fibs.

By contrast, the newly re-tired Steve Collins was unstop-

able. His predictions may have been off the mark (he forecast an early win and, after being pushed, plumped for Moore), but he was the perfect studio guest — witty, well-informed and modest. "Maybe the best thing for me next time is to sit and watch and say nothing until the whole thing is over." I'm confident that he'll find it isn't.

The first real sign that we were in trouble came when I

realised that Conch Collins and the newspaper journalist, Harry Mullan, had been talking for almost an hour, with only meagre support in the shape of pre-recorded material from ESPN, the American sports network, and Showtime, the host broadcaster. When they did eventually hand over to Reg Gutteridge, he sounded as honestly uncertain about Vazquez against Rios as only a commentator of

his vintage would dare to be. He scanned the "Tale of the Tape" for a talking point. "Any idea about that one 'no contest'?" "No idea," said the man from *Boxing News*, who was keeping the co-commentator's seat warm for Lennox Lewis.

The second, third and fourth signs we were in trouble came when Vazquez and Rios went to 12 appalling rounds, followed by an equally appalling decision, and then followed again by Tiozzo and Miller. Back in the studio, after manfully asking about 1,000 perfectly sensible questions, Scott briefly cracked. As Collins finished yet another eloquent reply, Scott's face went blank. "Er, OK — John Conch, would you agree with that?"

At least the extended build-

up gave plenty of time to reflect on the continuing mystery of what the contest was doing on Channel 5 in the first place. If the channel had overpaid, as some suggest, but the channel strongly denies, then there was precious little sign of it recouping its outlay — at least during the live coverage. I lost count of the time that passed without an ad break, but it was well over an hour. And even when the big bout did get underway, commercials were taken only between the first four rounds, a big plus for fight fans, but a minus for the company accountants.

As to the other theory, that

Channel 5 has surprisingly benefited from a cooling of relations between King and Sky, you had only to hear

King's interview on Radio 4's Today programme on Friday.

If King said "I love the BBC", once, he said it a dozen times.

Do you think he was trying to tell us something?

For a channel keen to make its mark on a new sport, Lewis was unquestionably the right man to have alongside Gutteridge. For those of us looking for a bit of impartial analysis, he was hopeless. The anti-Holyfield mind-set was already in place and Lewis was clearly seeing a different contest. After five knock-downs, Lewis still wasn't convinced Moore was hurt. More a problem with balance, he suggested. "Yes," Gutteridge mused, "keeps tripping over right hooks, doesn't he?"

Football-style transfer system may be needed to bring summer game's merry-go-round to a halt

## Cricket put at risk from dash for cash

**I**n football, they call it the close season. Cricket takes a longer break and has never been characterised by the feverish activity that goes on in the world of its richer sporting cousin. The game's culture, for want of a better word, is different traditionally, its players have been monogamous.

Loyalty was cricket's keystone; not any more. The summer game may not have adopted the transfer system that exists in football, but that day cannot be delayed for long. To some of the less fashionable clubs, whose pockets are not deep, it would provide a necessary, if inexact, form of regulation.

Vic Brownell, the chairman of Derbyshire, who may lose two of their senior players in the next month, would support it. "God forbid it ever gets like football," he said, "but at least we would get something for the loss of our players. We are trying to put in place a proper wage structure at this club, but if Chris Adams decides to go, it would leave a big hole."

Adams, their 27-year-old batsman, has been courted by half a dozen counties and his appeal against a List A (contested) registration will be heard tomorrow by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). Whatever happens, Adams will leave. So, too, may Devon Malcolm, the England fast bowler, who is out of contract at the end of his benefit season and wanted by Hampshire, Northamptonshire and Worcestershire.

It is the package that Sussex have offered Adams that has set tongues wagging. Players find out such details on the grapevine and it stiffens their own resolve to get more money. The problem is that, overall, the game cannot afford it. Jam again for a few does not mean more jam tomorrow for the many.

At first glance, Adams is not worth the £55,000 that Sussex are prepared to pay him — with the captaincy thrown in to help him to make up his mind. He has passed



**MICHAEL HENDERSON**

1,000 runs in only three of his ten seasons at Derbyshire and a career average of 36 is hardly outstanding. But he is gifted, has form on his side and is being advised by an agent, Jonathan Barnett, whose ambition matches his own.

Indeed, all sorts of covert manoeuvres are now going on as players, agents and other people acting as conduits try to broker deals for next summer and beyond. Players have always moved about, usually when they are not retained at the end of their contracts, but a quiet stream is gradually becoming a teeming commercial river.

**A**s he relaxes on holiday this week, Jason Gallian, of Lancashire, is considering an offer from Nottinghamshire that their cricket manager, Alan Ormrod, describes as "very attractive". In other words, it is more attractive than anything Glamorgan, Hampshire or Middlesex, who also want the player, might come up with.

Far more astonishing is the

revelation that Leicestershire would welcome Chris Lewis back to the club where he began his career ten years ago. Lewis is negotiating a new contract with Surrey and Leicestershire's interest can only increase the value of a player whose performances have rarely corresponded with his talent.

The striking thing about the modern "transfer" is that it is not the star names that command the biggest fees. People will always stump up to sign the likes of Shane Warne, who spurned any number of counties before deciding to stay in Australia, and Waqar Younis, whose recruitment by Glamorgan was vindicated by their championship success last season. They and other big-name players will remain attractive targets, because they confer lustre on the clubs that pay them and are not whisked

away during the summer to play Test cricket, as is the case with the leading domestic players. If Michael Atherton, for instance, was paid by the run, he would not be very well off.

"Cricketers are not well paid compared with people in other sports," Jim Cumbers, the chief executive at Lancashire, Atherton's club, said. "I find it significant that many of the players we have heard about recently are going to Tests match grounds. These clubs get more than £1 million from the board each year and they don't have a lot to spend on it. I doubt if we could afford some of the sums that have been mentioned."

Others are less reasonable. "The money that Sussex are happy to pay Adams is generated by him like us," an influential figure at one club said. "It makes the hands from the ECB look fat."

"Sometimes you begin to wonder if there isn't something in the threat of a breakaway by the bigger counties. I hope it doesn't come to that, but when Sussex are happy to spend huge sums on people who haven't even played Tests, you can understand why people are getting concerned. Will somebody tell me what Sussex have contributed to English cricket in the last 20 years?"

**T**he Sussex situation may be exceptional, reflecting their urgent need for new players, but it will have the effect of bumping up salaries and "sweeteners" the next time a player becomes "unhappy" or starts "looking for a fresh challenge".

Others are less reasonable. "The money that Sussex are happy to pay Adams is generated by him like us," an influential figure at one club said. "It makes the hands from the ECB look fat."

Not that Sussex are alone. Kent may have withdrawn from the race to sign Adams, but that does not mean that they are strapped for cash. Last year, they signed Alan Wells on a five-year contract from Sussex at an estimated £50,000 a year. At the same time, David Hemp decided to leave Glamorgan when Warwickshire offered to double his salary. Two years ago, Warwickshire prised Nick Knight from Essex, to that club's clearly expressed dismay.

When John Morris joined Durham three years ago, he signed up for £44,000, a considerable dowry, although, in his case, it helped to compensate for the benefit he was passing up at Derby.

If these are unremarkable figures compared with the money that players earn in other sports, they are eye-poppingly big for cricket clubs, which have never been flush with funds and which, this summer, pleaded imminent financial ruin as a way of combat-

ing proposals to reform the professional game by Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the chairman of ECB.

Rugby league has found to its cost that money, by itself, cannot solve the problems of a game. It can even create new ones. Unless money is harvested responsibly in the wider development of the game, from the bottom up, then cricket will soon find itself bedevilled by similar problems.

Meanwhile, clubs like Derbyshire soldier on, reliant more than ever on finding young players within their catchment area and husbanding their resources prudently. "We were congratulated only last week by the ECB for paying our players responsibly," Brownell said. Sadly, responsibility is no longer a common pursuit.

□ Lynne Truss is away

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-822 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

## Optimism in Barnsley

*From Mr W.A. Douglas*

Sir, I read the article "Optimism dies with Barnsley" (November 1) with a certain amount of bemusement. No right-thinking Barnsley fan expected their team to win at Old Trafford. Yes, they were well beaten by a team in sublime form and who would have defeated any other FA Carling Premiership team on the day, but the point is that football supporters throughout the land are perpetual optimists and Barnsley fans are currently living their dream which has become reality. For the 2,000 Barnsley supporters at Old Trafford, the scale of the Manchester victory may have been hard to bear, but they thoroughly enjoyed their visit and at times out-chanted the 50,000-plus United supporters.

Rather than optimism dying, the scene resembled mass delirium and, despite the results so far, the Barnsley faithful have reasons to be cheerful. Danny Wilson's steadily improving side are beginning to come to terms with the pace of the Premier-

ship and will pick up points as the season progresses. It will be difficult, but survival is a legitimate hope.

If the worst happens and Barnsley do go down, the club, the players and fans will be the richer for the experience and better prepared for the future.

Yours sincerely,  
W.A. DOUGLAS,  
4 Denton Gardens,  
Aughton, Lancashire.

## Football fun

*From Mr Robert Pooley*

Sir, Steven Page (Letters, November 3), who would never take his son to a football match, might like to cheer himself up by watching teams like Haslemere, Grayshott and Merrow. The amateur game, played by young men who pay to kick a ball, organised by unselfish club officials all over the country, is a refreshing antidote to the overpaid professionals and journalists who report — often — their every ill-considered remark.

Mr Page should get his son to play and one day he may be among those in intermediate leagues or division three who do not really wish to aim any

## Dalglish and 'media-friendly' managers

*From Mr Hayden Middleton*

Sir, Am I alone in tiring of media reports about Kenny Dalglish's "negative image in the media" (November 5)? It is not "a closely guarded secret" that the man is "an amusing, affable character". I hold no brief for Liverpool, Blackburn Rovers or Newcastle United, but I have had frequent glimpses of the man's sharp wit. (As when a television reporter asked him if it was hard to understand what his manager, Bob Paisley, was saying. "Sorry?" Dalglish said. And the reporter duly began to repeat the question as Dalglish exploded with laughter.)

In my view, far too many column inches are devoted to what managers say before and after

higher as it would take them away from their roots.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT POOLEY,  
St. Weysprings,  
Haslemere.

**Wonder runner**

*From Mr Brian H. Parker*

Sir, How does he do it? I refer to the international orienteer, Steve Hale (report, November 3), who can run through dense forest while reading a map and skipping from one lichen-covered boulder to another — and all, no doubt, at a speed which many road-runners

would find more respectable.

I tried to match this performance on lichen-covered boulders on Dartmoor last Sunday and came a fearsome crippler. All may not be lost, however. I am told that acquiring these skills is just a matter of patient practice. Since it is not unknown for orienteers in Scandinavia to compete into their nineties, I appear to have 30 years to get it right.

Yours sincerely,  
B.H. PARKER  
Rook House,  
Victoria Road,  
Dartmouth,  
Devon.

**Tupper's example**

*From Mr Martin Winter*

Sir, An outrageous slur can be the only verdict on your article (Bryant's Eye, November 5) missing Alf Tupper's key quality — his unfailing ability to complete those rush-welding jobs, often working through the night, to meet his deadlines. This may explain his presence at that overlarge pantheon of undersung British sporting heroes — Douglas Jardine, Norman Hunter, Nobby Stiles, etc.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN WINTER,  
24 Baskerville Rd, London.

## Another view of Schumacher

*From Mrs Jan Harsthorn*

Sir, During the first half of 1994, I carried out a study of the interactions between servers and guests, set in the hotel restaurant where I worked. One regular group of guests were the Benetton team, including the young racing driver, Michael Schumacher.

We were instructed, as agreed with the client, not to pestle him or discuss him with other guests. One waitress, for example, was seriously reprimanded for confirming his presence to another guest. Possibly due to the death of Ayrton Senna and with the media moving closer, this man looked one of the most lost and isolated guests I ever served, sitting alone with his laptop for company at the table one night. Other team members had chosen to sit separately.

But there was another, more

frustrating side of his isolation.

Despite the glass case

Schumacher earned great respect from low status workers.

He was possibly the most-liked guest we ever served and I have

observed with dismay the image of arrogance, and now

villainy, that is sometimes created around him in the media.

The hotel waitresses and chefs could not understand how this shy man, apparently earning so much, could treat them with more courtesy and politeness than they were accustomed to. Our mistakes were not a big issue for him and our skills were clearly appreciated. Quietly and with consideration, he gave us much-needed dignity.

Your sincerely,

JAN HARTSHORN

Appledown, Bath.

Northamptonshire.

## Television golf

*From Sir Dick Pantin*

Sir, You state (Report, October 30) that "three television-friendly tournaments will be staged in 1999 called World Cup Championships". This should give enough time to ensure that they are visible to most golfers as opposed to the Ryder Cup, which most golfers in Continental Europe and the majority in the UK were unable to witness "live".

Yours sincerely,

DICK PANTIN

11 Avenue De Mercede,  
1000 Brussels, Belgium.

## farrel helps restore

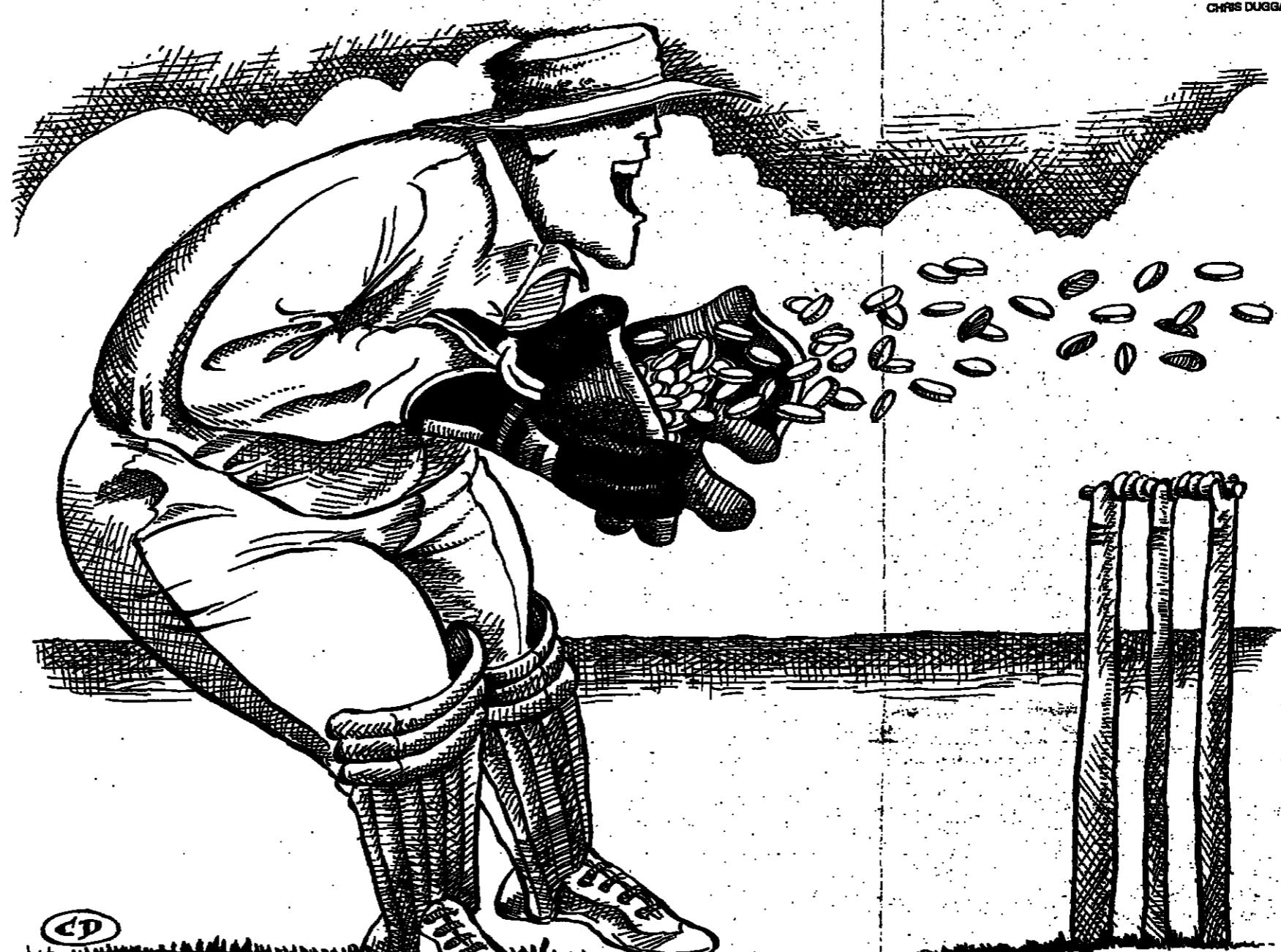
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11 Avenue De Mercede,  
1000 Brussels, Belgium.



## SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to:  
letters@the-times.co.uk

This week in  
THE TIMES

Tomorrow  
How has Greg Rusedski fared in the draw for the world tennis championship in Hanover?

Wednesday  
Banned or fined?

How has Michael Schumacher been judged for the Jerez crash?

Thursday  
England fine-tune their squad for Saturday's rugby union international against Australia.

Saturday  
Football Saturday.

Oliver Holt on

England's game against Cameroon.

Frank Leboeuf and

Danny Baker

Brussels.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

# Farrell's expertise helps Britain to restore credibility

Great Britain ..... 20  
Australia ..... 12

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

The death knell for the British game was supposed to be heard at Old Trafford on Saturday. Instead, Andy Goodway's team is on the verge of winning the Ashes for the first time since 1970. Having levelled the British Gas series, Britain will help themselves to a piece of rugby league history if they can win the third and final international at Elland Road next Sunday.

This victory was as uplifting as the defeat at Wembley had been depressing. In 1990 and 1994, British hopes were crushed by defeat at Elland Road after they had won the opening match of the series; now it is they who have the momentum.

Perhaps it is because defeats of Australia are rare that each one is memorable. This one will be recalled as a triumph for determination and the talismanic Andy Farrell.

When Australia have been put under pressure in the past, they have always responded. Their discipline and ball-control, which let them down badly here, are sure to improve and their skills remain consummate. However, a transformed Britain side were away the sheen of Australian invincibility generated by their dominance of the world club championship.

For a team rated by the bookmakers as likely to need an 18-point start to win, Britain's victory was heroic. The knowledge that Australia have won the past three deciding games leaves them no room for complacency, but, for a week at least, the mention of British rugby league is not guaranteed a laugh in the bars of Sydney.

By ELLEN BROOKS-SENSE

something with her rendition beforehand of *Fool If You Think It's Over* — a sentiment that Goodway will now drill into his team. "Without being pessimistic, it's one game," he said. "The players and public will enjoy it, but if we lose next Sunday, it will be an irrelevance."

For victory finally to arrive at a time when British self-esteem is so low would be the supreme irony, but with the belief that they lacked at Wembley and without the mistakes, Farrell had said, his side would win. Few believed him and fewer still thought that he should be at stand-off half. Yet that was the position from which Farrell operated like a puppeteer, guiding his hungry forwards on to the ball, dummying the Australia cover for an audacious try and landing six goals.

This time, it was the turn of Laurie Daley, the Australia captain, to give way to his opposite number. Not that Daley played poorly, but behind a pack so frequently disrupted, Australia — Tallis in particular — were let down by a lack of discipline. During the ten minutes that Tallis spent in the sin-bin for head-high tackles on Sculthorpe, Joynt and Hunt, Britain established a six-point cushion.

If a disciplinary panel decides today that Tallis has a

case to answer, he could miss the match on Sunday. Now that he is fit again, however, Clyde's steady influence in the second row is what Australia possibly require anyway. A measure of a side remains its response and there is no chance that Australia will again underestimate Britain's fortitude.

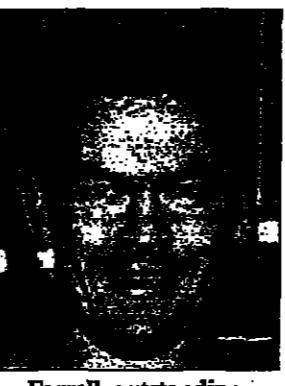
Nobody exemplified that spirit more than Broadbent in the front row. He and his fellow forwards had been as flat as the Wembley occasion the previous week, but they forged this win. Haughton's impact from the bench significantly increased the tempo and his work led to the second try, by Robinson. Nor did Morley or Sculthorpe take a step backwards in their pursuit of the opposition.

There was little Britain could have done about the tries by Walters and Gower. Otherwise, Archeson was a rock at the back and Newlove, Hunt and Goulding, not renowned for their work in defence, encapsulated Britain's spirit.

Hearts briefly stopped as Smith, with the line open, dropped the simplest of scoring passes with the score 18-12 — not that Australia were won a draw. When Hunt launched a thrilling counter-attack, only to be illegally held down by Smith, Farrell punished them for a final time.

SCORERS: Great Britain: Tries: F. Robinson, G. Gower, G. Sculthorpe, D. Lockyer (2). Australia: Tries: Waters, Gower, G. Sculthorpe, D. Lockyer (2). Goals: P. Newlove (2), S. Hunt (2), A. Farrell (Wigan, captain), R. Goulding (St Helens), B. McDonald (Salford), J. Lomax (Salford), P. Broadbent (Sheffield), C. Joynt (St Helens), A. Morley (Leeds), P. Sculthorpe (Warrington), D. Archeson (Salford), S. Haughton (Wigan), M. Forshaw (Bradford). Referee: P. Houston (New Zealand).

Referee: P. Houston (New Zealand).



Farrell: outstanding



Sculthorpe shows the determination that accounted for Australia at Old Trafford. Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

## Australian pride suffers in silence

David Powell finds a dwindling band urging on the men in green and gold

Australia did not have much to shout about, but then, there were not many Australians to shout. "They should be ashamed of themselves," Viv Johnson, 63, said, her face animated at the national disgrace. The defeat was not the issue here. It was the apathy among the game's followers back home that was troubling this diehard fan outside Old Trafford.

"This is the worst crowd we have ever had, terrible," Johnson said. She recalled how, in 1994, she had a choice of 22 tours to follow the Kangaroos to Britain. This time, there was no choice of operator. There was just one tour, take it or leave it. Only 15 took it. Three years ago, around 2,000 came.

Then the telling statement. "It is all because of the split," Johnson said. The team had been better supported at Wembley, for the first international, but that was London's Australian population who gave the green and gold visibility in the stands. Up at

Old Trafford, the woman painting faces in team colours reported only one request for the Australia look — and she was from Leeds.

The split that has disaffected supporters is between the Super League and the Australian Rugby League (ARL).

This team is comprised entirely of Super League players — which is not the full can of

lager. Were it not for the fact that Great Britain played so impressively on Saturday, this might have been deemed a devasted victory, though Britain, too, were short of several first-choice players.

Peter Frillingos, a visiting journalist on his sixth tour, believes that a number of ARL players, perhaps four, would be selected for a combined team.

Furthermore, injuries to Steve Renouf and Allan Langer mean the absence of the world's best centre and half-back.

"I think they would beat

previous Australian touring sides by 20 points, which puts our performance today on a world-class level," Lindsay said. "In all other sports where there is a measure, where there is a stopwatch, weighs you life, or a high jump bar, performances have improved. So why should team sports be any different?"

"I have seen every Australian team and this is a fine Australian side that ran into a committed, gutsy and competent Great Britain side. I do not think it could be improved by replacing them with ARL players. They [ARL players] would not let them down but I do not think you would see any significant improvement."

The woman from Leeds with her green and gold face paint revealed her reasons for switching sides. It was partly because she was a room-mate at the hotel where the touring team was staying, but mainly because, she was saying beforehand, she admired Australian skill more than Great Britain's. Wrong day to be in a minority of 16.

## ICE HOCKEY

# Eagles go to the Devils in fiery style

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

AYR Scottish Eagles will meet Cardiff Devils in the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup in Sheffield next month. In a fiercely contested semi-final second leg, they beat Manchester Storm 4-2 to go through 8-6 on aggregate.

No quarter was asked for nor given — the game featured countless crunching body checks with defence uppermost on everyone's mind — but it was a defensive lapse by Mikael Wiklander that set up Jeff Hood for the first Ayr minute, which came in the fifth minute.

Ten minutes later, Mike Morin equalised with the best goal of the game, but Hood's second marker gave Ayr a 2-1 edge at the first interval.

While there was no shortage of incident on the ice, it was an off-ice occurrence that delayed the start of the second period as an excess of smoke in the bar set off the alarm system and the building had to be evacuated.

After the extended interval, the Storm thought they had equalised for a second time as the Ayr goatherd, Rob Dopson, appeared to slide over the goal line with the puck underneath him. Unfortunately for the Storm, none of the on-ice officials could confirm this. Manchester were further disappointed when Mark Montanari picked up a red card.

Wilkander brought Manchester to within one three minutes later, but the Storm could not find the net again and Dennis Purdie put the icing on the Eagles' win by scoring into the empty net with nine seconds remaining.

In the two Express Cup games played on Saturday, the away teams were successful. Bracknell Bees beat Basingstoke Bison 5-2 and Cardiff Devils were 3-2 winners over Nottingham Panthers.

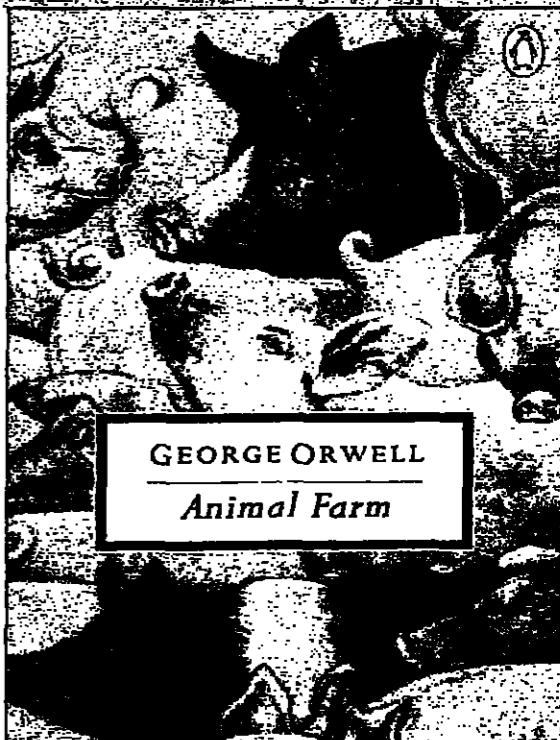
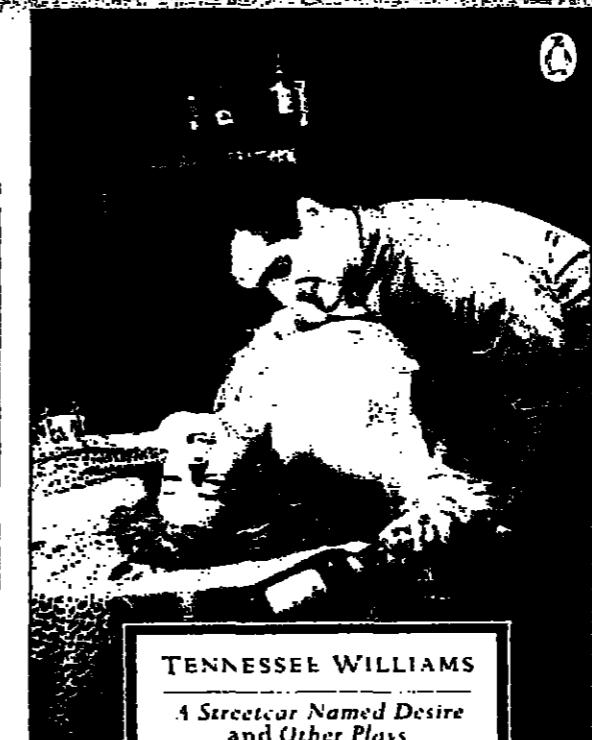
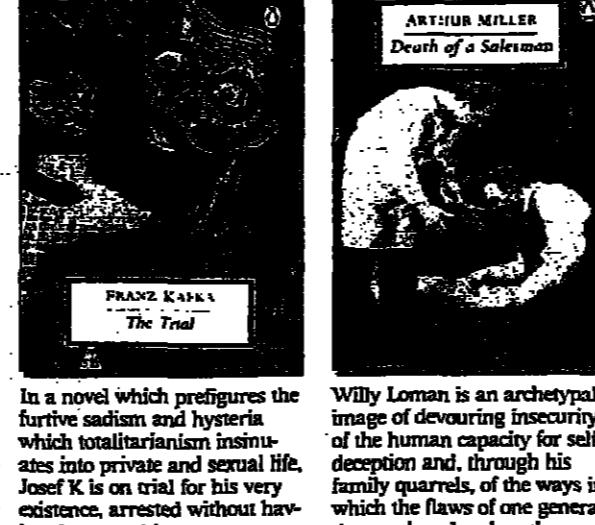
Results, page 41

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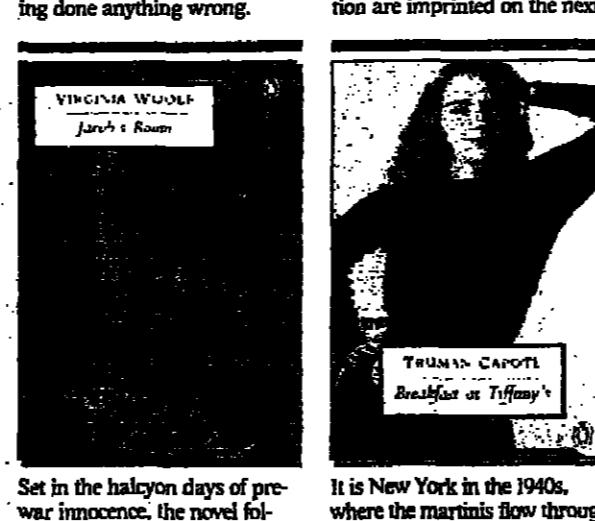
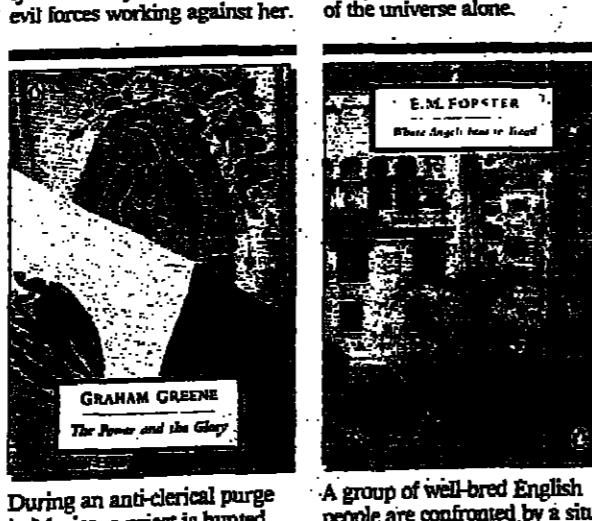
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## EQUESTRIANISM

# Prudent gets the better of Olympic champion

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN BRUSSELS

KATIE Monahan Prudent, of the United States, gained her biggest success in Europe since finishing runner-up in the inaugural Volvo World Cup in Sweden in 1979 when she and her Dutch-bred mare, Belladonna, won the Volvo World Cup qualifier here yesterday after a tense jump-off involving eight of the sport's leading horses.

Prudent, who produced a breathtaking round against the clock, had the satisfaction of relegating the Olympic champion, Ulrich Kirchhoff, of Germany, on his Dutch-bred stallion, Gelha's VDL Glenridge, to second place.

Jan Tops, a member of the

Whitaker's most satisfying wins of the season. It confirmed the return to form of the 14-year-old gelding, who has had nearly 12 months away from the circuit with a back injury. "He feels like a new horse," Whitaker said.

Prudent was no less delighted with her win yesterday. Despite numerous successes in World Cup events in the North American League over the past 10 years, this win brought an added bonus — a £20,000 Volvo car.

It was well deserved. The technically demanding 13-fence course, designed by Luc Musette, of Belgium, caused numerous problems, with such noted riders as Alexandra Ledermann and Rocher, the Olympic bronze medallists, from France, who dropped out of contention on 16 faults, and Nelson Pessoa, of Brazil, who dropped out on eight.

In the jump-off, Tops produced the first clear round, but in the slow time of 42.30sec. Lars Nieberg, on For Pleasure, a member of Germany's Olympic gold medal-winning team, and Smith both incurred four faults.

Prudent, who is married to the French rider, Henri Prudent, then produced a copybook round in which her mare confirmed Prudent's assertion that she is "super careful".

Kirchhoff made a spirited attempt to match Prudent's time but finished more than a second outside. Even then, Prudent could not relax. Trevor Coyle, of Ireland, the last rider to go, had one of the on-form horses in Cruising, the winner of the Millstreet qualifier in Ireland last weekend and one of the quickest horses on the circuit. Coyle set off at a brisk pace — with Prudent barely able to watch — but at the double, which he approached as if at a steeple-chase, the second fence fell. He finished in eighth place.

Results

Dutch silver medal-winning team at the European championships in Mannheim in August, finished third after opting for a slow clear round on Operette La Silla last on eight.

Robert Smith, a key member of Great Britain's bronze medal-winning team in Mannheim, again conjured two superb rounds from Senator Tee Hanauer — at 17, the oldest horse in the event — to finish in fifth place. The result, which follows his sixth place in Amsterdam two weeks ago, has lifted Smith, 36, to joint-twelfth place in the Western European League from which the top 19 qualify for the final in April. Smith is the only Briton in the top 20.

Michael Whitaker, who had been anxious to earn some qualifying points here, incurred a disappointing eight faults on Ashley, but his journey here was not in vain. On Saturday night, he and Virtual Village Two Step won the Nashua Grand Prix, which, although over a less demanding course than yesterday's qualifier, was one of

# Ardingly find winning formula

By JOHN GOODBODY

ARDINGLY and Bolton both have a particular incentive to win the Boodle and Dunthorpe Cup this season and they have focused on reaching the final by displaying a rare goalscoring proficiency in the early rounds.

To reach the quarter-finals of this independent schools' football competition, Ardingly crushed Westminster 10-1 while Bolton had an even more overwhelming victory over Wellingborough, 10-0. They have avoided each other in the draw, with both receiving home ties: Ardingly now play Shrewsbury, while Bolton meet Brentwood.

Ardingly's style of precise passing and constant running-off-the-ball makes them attractive to watch, but far too often in recent years they have unexpectedly lost crucial matches. They were beaten in two successive finals both in this competition and in the annual independent schools' six-a-sides tournament. Last

year, they also lost in the semi-final of the national Strikers' Trophy, which is open to both state and independent schools.

Graham Dawtry, the master-in-charge, believes that this team is the best ever. "We have fewer weaknesses than we have had in the past and we are not relying on a few star players," he said. "This team is also benefiting from the performances of their predecessors. There is now more continuity of expectation of success in the college. It is not seen as a novelty for football teams to do well."

"Our style is established and is coming through from the younger age-groups. Our first, second and third XIs are all unbeaten this season."

Their most intriguing player is the 17-year-old goalkeeper, Karem Monen, who found that his dedication, agility and safe handling counted less with some Eng-

lish clubs than with the fact that he was still under 6ft tall. Over half-term, he was playing with the youth team of Borussia Dortmund, the European champions, who do not have such restrictions over spotting outstanding talent.

Against Westminster, Jake Fairbrother, a midfield player, who has been training with Brighton, scored a hat-trick, as did two strikers, Tom Beech and Peter Montgomery.

Dawtry says: "The one thing we are lacking is a ruthless streak. Against teams of a similar standard, we are not killing off teams as we should."

Shrewsbury beat St Bede's, Manchester 4-2 in the previous



Umpfield, of Shrewsbury, is crowded out by Hardman and Woods, of St Bede's

round, with two goals coming from Andrew Umpfield, playing his first game of the season after a stress fracture on his back caused by cricket fast bowling. Shrewsbury are gradually getting a settled team, after having several players unavailable through injury.

Bolton lost the final last season to Lancing but ten of that squad are now back this term, although James Freeborn, an outstanding forward, has undergone an operation to his groin and will be unavailable until after the New Year. However, Daniel Barrett, another striker, who also missed the final, is scoring prolifically.

In friendlies, the team has

lost 3-0 to St Bede's, drawn 3-3 with Hulme GS and 1-1 with the King's School, Chester. Chris Rigby, the master-in-charge of football, says: "We have yet to achieve consistency. When the team are good, they are really very good, but when they are not playing well, they are indifferent to the point of frustration."

The other two quarter-finals are between QEGS, Blackburn and King's Chester, while Repton, the most dangerous outsiders in the tournament, are at home to Eton, who defeated Haileybury away 3-1. Repton has won all 11 games this season, including defeating Shrewsbury 2-0 in a friendly on Saturday.

# PASSING THE BUCK

INSIDE THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

## Smoke settles after U-turn

I see threats of a tobacco ban on Formula One have been lifted.

Yup, Bernie Ecclestone, the sport's promotional impresario, met Tony Blair last month and persuaded him that there should be a special exemption for the sport.

Will Tony's three-point turn have much effect on Europe? It must have some effect. The French have already banned tobacco advertising, so the teams run in their colours without the cigarette makers on them, but the Germans are a bit reluctant to jeopardise a sport where their boy is one of the top dogs.

How will the U-turn over the tobacco ban affect Formula One?

Tobacco sponsorship is worth more than £100 million a year to Formula One. Despite talk of new sponsorship income, from financial services and the like, there is nothing in the pipeline likely to replace this.

And what about the British, French and other European grands prix?

Ecclestone had been threatening to move the sport much more to the Far East. In places like Thailand, Indonesia and Macau, both motor racing and smoking are national obsessions. This U-turn might slow the move, but it will not stop it.

But how will the change affect the Formula One float?

The float?

Yes, the £2 billion float due to be launched in July that became a £1 billion float in September and now appears to be left behind on the grid.

Well, Ecclestone reckons this will help as it takes away some of the problems. Others are not so sure.

Why's that?

Because many of the problems that dogged the original attempt to float Formula One still dog it.

Such as?

Teams not signing up to the Concord agreement that governs how television income is divided up between the tracks, the teams and Ecclestone.

I thought they had given up that battle.

Only the Arrows team and who cares about them? McLaren and Williams have still not come to an agreement and Formula One would be a pale shadow of its former self without the world champions and the winners of the final grand prix. Without them, Concorde will not fly.

But isn't there a cloud over the final result, with accusations of collaboration between Williams and McLaren?

Mrh. Yes. Isn't that interesting. If they were disqualified, this would mean that Michael Schumacher would be world champion, lifting the cloud hanging over him and giving the Ferrari team their first world title in living memory.

Would Ecclestone like this?

It might be in his interests. Ferrari is a strong supporter of his, with a former Ferrari executive taking a senior post in the hierarchy of Ecclestone's restructured Formula One Holdings.

So McLaren and Williams having their wings clipped might help them come in on Concorde and so aid the Formula One float?

And I thought Macchiaroli was a new Italian racing driver.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT  
It is often difficult to find minor-suit games when they are the right contract even at Teams scoring. This deal occurred in a local League match.

Dealer East Game all IMPs

♦K64	♦Q56	♦A82	♦A76
+103	+532	+K1053	+9532
N	W	E	S
♦Q35	♦A104	♦Q764	+J
W	E	K97	+J
♦K1053	+K97	+J	+KQ1084

Contract: Five Diamonds by South. Lead: two of clubs

At all four tables North responded Two Clubs to the take-out double but at three tables he rebid Three No-Trumps over South's Two Hearts. This contract went a routine one down on a club lead.

At the fourth table North could see that clubs were insufficiently stopped for Three No-Trumps so he made the calculated under-bid of Two No-Trumps. South, noting that North had not bid Two No-Trumps straight away so was clearly interested in alternative contracts, tried to play in Three Diamonds. North could restrain himself no longer and jumped to game.

Declarer won the club lead and played a low trump to the jack, queen and king. He ruffed the club continuation and played a spade to the ace. East won the ace.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SYRINX  
a. A musical instrument  
b. An irregular pentagon  
c. Rifle Brigade insignia

COCK TREAD  
a. Highland Brigade march  
b. March  
c. The act of value

Answers on page 49

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Times Draw

In a simultaneous display, involving 24 games at one and the same time played over the weekend at the Cobden Club in London, world champion Garry Kasparov won the vast majority, conceding a few draws but no losses. The display was in aid of the Fragile X Society, which combats learning disorders. Amongst the draws was the following hard fought game by Daniel Johnson of The Times. Other chess enthusiasts present included Steve Davis, Sting and Julian Barnes.

White: Gary Kasparov  
Black: Daniel Johnson  
Simultaneous Display,  
Cobden Club, London, November 1997

Ray Lopez

1 e4

2 Nc3

3 Bb5

4 d5

5 Bb5

6 Nf3

7 Nc3

8 Qd2

9 Rd1

10 Nc3

11 Nf3

12 Rfd1

13 Nc3

14 Bg5

15 Bxg5

16 Bxe7

17 Nc3

18 c3

19 g3

20 g3

21 Rfd8

22 Rfd8

23 Kf2

24 b4

25 g4

26 Kf3

27 Kf3

28 Ng3

29 h4

30 Kf3

31 f5

32 Ne2

33 a5

34 g5

35 Kf2

36 Kf2

37 Ke2

38 Kf2

39 Kf2

40 Kf2

41 Kf2

42 Kf2

43 Kf2

44 Kf2

45 Kf2

46 Kf2

47 Kf2

48 Kf2

49 Kf2

50 Kf2

51 Kf2

52 Kf2

53 Kf2

54 Kf2



RACING: TEXAN DISMISSES RETIREMENT RUMOURS AFTER ACHIEVING FIRST BREEDERS' CUP SUCCESS

# Asmussen rides high on Spinning World

FROM CHRIS MCGRATH  
AT HOLLYWOOD PARK

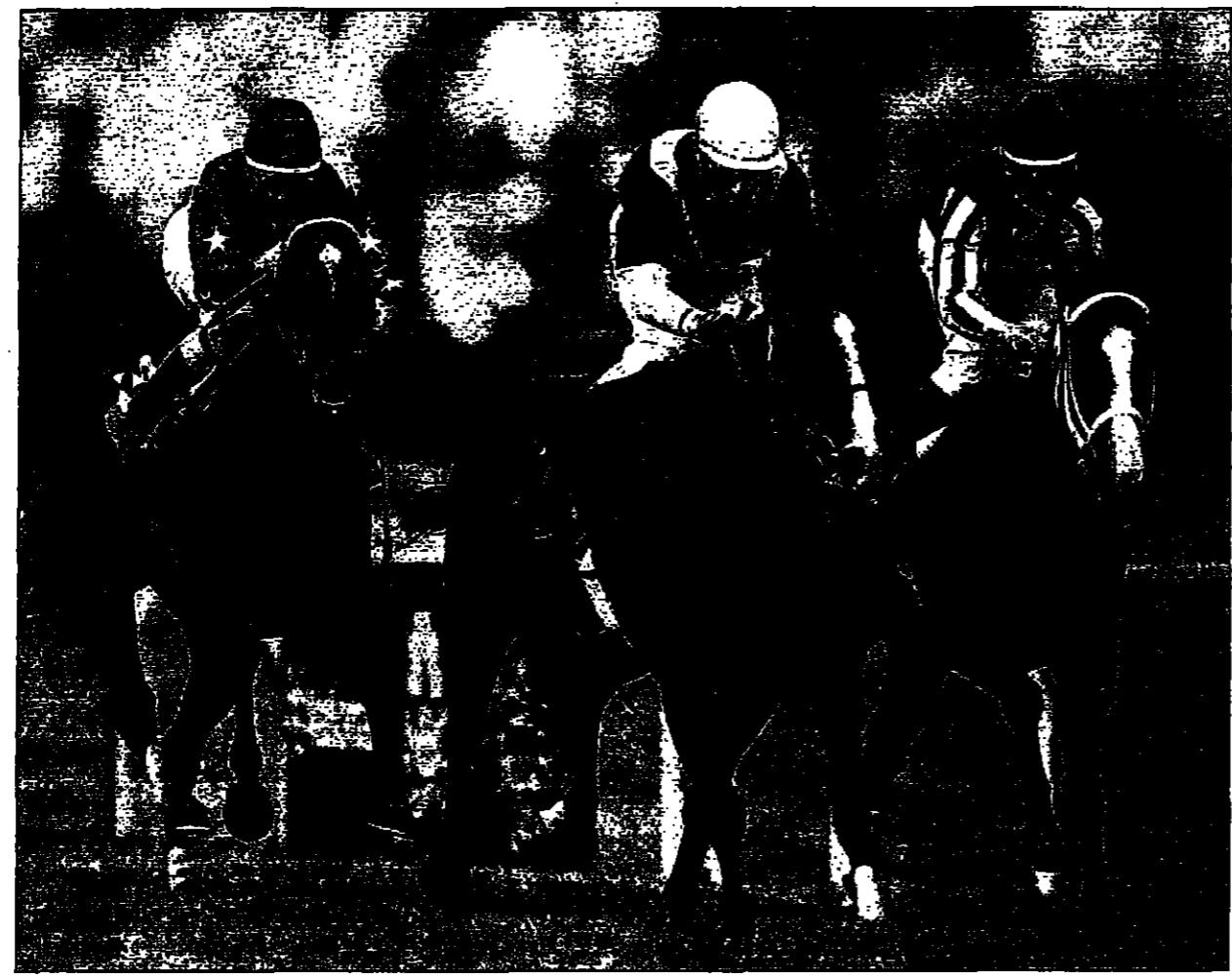
IT SEEMS somehow appropriate that the horse to conquer anew the disorientation and self-doubt tormenting Europe's raiders at the Breeders' Cup should be named Spinning World — and still more so that he should be ridden to a stirring success here on Saturday by one of the most cosmopolitan figures in the global sport.

Cash Asmussen has such a vivid personality that the presence of a self-effacing foil in Jonathan Pease, the horse's trainer, lent an extra flourish to his role in the Breeders' Cup Mile. Back in his homeland, Asmussen seized centre stage as he exulted — with the confidence, flair and passion that are his defining attributes — in a first Breeders' Cup success from 23 attempts.

The Texan astutely capitalised on a helpful draw to ride with more aggression than has often been his trademark, hurtling clear in the home straight to deny the local hope, Geri, by two lengths with Decorated Hero a gallant third for Britain.

But the day that distilled much of Asmussen's essence, it also contained a potent flavour of valediction — so much so that he had to "put the record straight" on rumours that he would be following Spinning World into retirement.

Suggestions circulated, befitting to this effect, which appeared to gain substance when Maria Niarchos — who has assumed control of her late father's bloodstock interests — greeted him in the paddock by saying: "Last chance?" He replied: "Yep, but a big chance."



Spinning World, centre, gives Asmussen his first Breeders' Cup success. Photograph: Mike Powell/Allsport

Asmussen explained that this exchange, treated as a reference to his long wait for a first Cup winner, had been misconstrued. "She was talking about the fact that Spinning World is now going to the paddock," he said. "I'm still enjoying it. It's true that I have

minished all the bravura of the man who exported his talents to Europe 14 seasons ago. Yet it does seem unlikely that he will ride for the several years his age still permits him. At 35, there are grey flecks to his dashing mane of hair. A colourful rivalry with Olivier Peslier confirms him in the

knowledge that he has surrendered the Parisian limelight to a younger generation. It has also naturally been a time of upheaval in the Niarchos racing dynasty.

"We'll see how it all pans out," the five-times champion jockey of France said. "I'm still enjoying it. It's true that I have

time I tasted him. He is a champion and was ready to explode."

Even such an exceptional horse, however, requires the most skilful preparation to succeed here against the odds of a long season and sudden change of environment. Pease has already won a Breeders' Cup event, with *Tikkane* three years ago, and deserves all the plaudits his temperament deserves him to avoid. "I think missing the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot could have made all the difference," the Chantilly trainer said. "It kept him fresh."

Pease is an Englishman, but California remains virgin territory for British-based raiders, with Carmine Lake ninth and Royal Applause trailing in last behind Elmhurst in the Sprint. The French filly, Pas De Reponse, was again ridden too positively and dropped away, while her stablemate, Majorien, could not get into the Turf shake-up.

By contrast, there was a superb Cup debut by Kieren Fallon aboard the German filly, Borgia, beating all bar Chief Bearheart. With a winner, second and third, was an encouraging chapter for the Europeans, especially after the smallest raiding party yet had lost Singing at the eleventh hour.

On a day dominated by flourishing exiles, however, the star turn was undoubtedly Romford-born Patrick Byrne, who saddled exciting winners of both Juvenile races in Countess Diana and Favorite Trick. The latter, unbeaten in eight, now jostles Skip Away — emphatic winner of the world's richest prize in the Classic — for the status of US Horse of the Year.

## BREEDERS' CUP RETURNS

Going: 5m (turf), fast (dry)  
6.55 BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE  
FILLIES (Group 1; 2-Y-O; 6f)  
1. CHATEAU DIANA (S Selskar), 2. Borgia, 3.  
Down N' Roll, 4. Starburst, 5. 11m, 6.11. M  
Frosted in Canada. Part-mutuel 5.80.  
place 3.60, 5.50; show 3.20, 4.00.  
6.55 BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC  
(Group 1; 2-Y-O; 6f)  
1. Skip Away (M Smart), 2. Deputy  
Commander, 3. Borgia, 4. 9m, 7.11. H  
Hire. Part-mutuel 5.60; place 3.20, 4.80;  
show 2.80, 4.00, 7.80.

## Singspiel recovering

SINGSPIEL is recovering at Hollywood Park after surgeons inserted two screws into his injured right foreleg. The five-year-old broke down while he was completing his final piece of work before the Breeders' Cup Turf. He faces up to eight weeks in the United States before he can return to Europe to take up stallion duties.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FIVE MEETINGS

## Doncaster

Going: good to soft  
12.50 (1m 1f). Eco Friendly (D. Headen, 7-1; 2, Doubtful Edged 6-1). 3. Actiles (D. Headen, 7-1; 2, 3 Hills Total 6-1). 4.20 (2m 6f). 5.11. 6.10. 7.10. 8.20. 9.20. 10.20. 11.20. 12.20. 13.20. 14.20. 15.20. 16.20. 17.20. 18.20. 19.20. 20.20. 21.20. 22.20. 23.20. 24.20. 25.20. 26.20. 27.20. 28.20. 29.20. 30.20. 31.20. 32.20. 33.20. 34.20. 35.20. 36.20. 37.20. 38.20. 39.20. 40.20. 41.20. 42.20. 43.20. 44.20. 45.20. 46.20. 47.20. 48.20. 49.20. 50.20. 51.20. 52.20. 53.20. 54.20. 55.20. 56.20. 57.20. 58.20. 59.20. 60.20. 61.20. 62.20. 63.20. 64.20. 65.20. 66.20. 67.20. 68.20. 69.20. 70.20. 71.20. 72.20. 73.20. 74.20. 75.20. 76.20. 77.20. 78.20. 79.20. 80.20. 81.20. 82.20. 83.20. 84.20. 85.20. 86.20. 87.20. 88.20. 89.20. 90.20. 91.20. 92.20. 93.20. 94.20. 95.20. 96.20. 97.20. 98.20. 99.20. 100.20. 101.20. 102.20. 103.20. 104.20. 105.20. 106.20. 107.20. 108.20. 109.20. 110.20. 111.20. 112.20. 113.20. 114.20. 115.20. 116.20. 117.20. 118.20. 119.20. 120.20. 121.20. 122.20. 123.20. 124.20. 125.20. 126.20. 127.20. 128.20. 129.20. 130.20. 131.20. 132.20. 133.20. 134.20. 135.20. 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## FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER

2-0 Faked Dots  
2-0 Harbor House  
1-0 CALYVO (Sparta)  
1-0 GERRY'S PRIDE

## GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

12.40 MUN WADEN HURDLE

## FORM FOCUS

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## Time for determining defendant's domicile

**The Canada Trust Co and Others v Stolzenberg and Others (No 2)**

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Waller (Judgment October 29)

The required standard of proof to establish domicile: the time for determining a defendant's domicile, and the requirement for service on the defendant in England prior to bringing proceedings against other defendants were established by the Court of Appeal on an appeal by a number of non-resident defendants from a ruling that the English courts had jurisdiction to entertain claims against them either (a) because of the domicile in England of another defendant to the action or (b) because they were necessary and proper parties to a claim against a person duly served.

The Court of Appeal made the rulings (Lord Justice Pill dissenting in part) in reserved judgments when dismissing interlocutory appeals by seven non-resident defendants, Marco Gambazzi, Edwin Banziger, Coeval Co Inc, Trustline Arstal, Mora Hotel Corporation NV, Bogen Financiera SA and Cetam SA, from the judgment of Mr Justice Rothery on 27 May 1997, holding in favour of the plaintiffs, the Canada Trust Co, the Royal Trust Corporation of Canada and Chrysler Canada Ltd, that the court had jurisdiction over all the defendants because of the domicile of the first defendant, Mr Wolfgang Stolzenberg, in England at

all material times.

Mr Andrew Hochhauser, QC, Mr Martin Griffiths and Mr Vernon Flynn for the second, fifth, seventh, tenth, fifteenth and sixteenth defendants; Mr Tom Lucy for the fourth defendant, Mr Banziger; Mr Christopher Carr, QC, Mr Philip Marshall and Mr Andrew Lenon for the plaintiffs.

**LORD JUSTICE WALLER** said that it was the plaintiffs' case that Mr Stolzenberg was the principal defendant and responsible with the other defendants for inducing the plaintiffs by fraud to make investments in a group of companies. The plaintiffs commenced proceedings against Mr Stolzenberg in England (see also *The Times* May 1, 1997) and sought to join as parties those who had assented to a claim against the assented partook in the fraud.

The plaintiffs asserted that the English court had jurisdiction over Mr Gambazzi, Trustline and Cetam, three of the defendants, on the basis that they were domiciled in Switzerland, a contracting state under the Lugano Convention, incorporated under article 34 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, inserted by section 1 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1992, holding in favour of the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs, the Canada Trust Co, the Royal Trust Corporation of Canada and Chrysler Canada Ltd, that the court had jurisdiction over all the defendants because of the domicile of the first defendant, Mr Wolfgang Stolzenberg, in England at

the time of the judgment.

Those three defendants had

been served with the proceedings but had applied under Order 12, rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for declarations that the English court had no jurisdiction because Mr Stolzenberg was not domiciled within the United Kingdom at the material time.

The other defendants, resident in non-contracting states, challenged the judge's decision that Mr Stolzenberg was domiciled in the United Kingdom and that they were necessary and proper parties to the plaintiffs' claim brought against a person duly served, whether within or out of England: see Order 11, rule 11(1)(b) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Those non-Convention defendants challenged the judge's decision simply by reference to the point which arose in relation to the Convention defendants, namely that the judge was wrong to find that Mr Stolzenberg was domiciled in England at any material time and thus to conclude that the court had jurisdiction over any defendant.

Mr Hochhauser submitted that the words "sued" wherever they appeared in articles 2, 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10 referred to the service of proceedings against the defendants in the hope that that would dispose of the appeal.

1 What was the correct standard of proof to apply to the question whether a defendant was domiciled in England on an application under Order 12, rule 8 involving issues that arose under article 6?

The judge held that the Convention defendants' application to set aside service would fail if the plaintiffs had shown a good arguable case that the requirement of article 6.1 had been satisfied. He rejected the defendants' submission that the standard of proof required was the ordinary civil standard of proof, the balance of probabilities.

Having reviewed the authorities, including *Seancor Far East Ltd v Bank Markazi Jonburi Islami Iran* [1994] 1 AC 433; *Team Distribution Ltd v Schuh Mode Team GmbH* [1990] ILR 149 and *Molnlycke AB v Procter and Gamble Ltd* [1992] 1 WLR 1112, his Lordship concluded that the judge was right and that there was no indication that he had not applied the "good arguable case" concept correctly.

2 What was the correct date for determining whether or not a defendant was domiciled in England for the purpose of determining whether the court had jurisdiction under article 6?

Mr Hochhauser submitted that at that stage with certain points of principle decided by the judge in the hope that that would dispose of the appeal.

3 What was the correct standard of proof to apply to the question whether a defendant was domiciled in England on an application under Order 12, rule 8 involving issues that arose under article 6?

The judge held that the Convention defendants' application to set aside service would fail if the plaintiffs had shown a good arguable case that the requirement of article 6.1 had been satisfied. He rejected the defendants' submission that the standard of proof required was the ordinary civil standard of proof, the balance of probabilities.

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4 What was the correct date for determining whether or not a defendant was domiciled in England for the purpose of determining whether the court had jurisdiction under article 6?

Mr Hochhauser submitted that at that stage with certain points of principle decided by the judge in the hope that that would dispose of the appeal.

5 What was the correct standard of proof to apply to the question whether a defendant was domiciled in England on an application under Order 12, rule 8 involving issues that arose under article 6?

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6 What was the correct date for determining whether or not a defendant was domiciled in England for the purpose of determining whether the court had jurisdiction under article 6?

Mr Hochhauser submitted that at that stage with certain points of principle decided by the judge in the hope that that would dispose of the appeal.

7 What was the correct standard of proof to apply to the question whether a defendant was domiciled in England on an application under Order 12, rule 8 involving issues that arose under article 6?

The judge held that the Convention defendants' application to set aside service would fail if the plaintiffs had shown a good arguable case that the requirement of article 6.1 had been satisfied. He rejected the defendants' submission that the standard of proof required was the ordinary civil standard of proof, the balance of probabilities.

Having reviewed the authorities, including *Seancor Far East Ltd v Bank Markazi Jonburi Islami Iran* [1994] 1 AC 433; *Team Distribution Ltd v Schuh Mode Team GmbH* [1990] ILR 149 and *Molnlycke AB v Procter and Gamble Ltd* [1992] 1 WLR 1112, his Lordship concluded that the judge was right and that there was no indication that he had not applied the "good arguable case" concept correctly.

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 1997  
Court of Appeal  
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reign immunity

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 1997

EQUITY PRICES 43

## Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Mid cap	Company	Pos	Wkly	Ytd	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
10,200 Allied Domecq	1000+	-1	55	145	
2,500 Amstel Lager	400+	-1	55	145	
2,500 Bass	400+	-1	55	145	
12,500 Beersmiths A	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 British Beer	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Carling	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein Bt	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein C	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein D	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein E	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein F	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein G	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein H	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein I	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein J	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein K	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein L	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein M	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein N	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein O	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein P	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein Q	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein R	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein S	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein T	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein U	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein V	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein W	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein X	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein Y	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein Z	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein A	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein B	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein C	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein D	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein E	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein F	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein G	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein H	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein I	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein J	300+	-1	55	145	
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10,200 Heublein M	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein N	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein O	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein P	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein Q	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein R	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein S	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein T	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein U	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein V	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein W	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein X	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein Y	300+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Heublein Z	300+	-1	55	145	
BANKS					
10,200 Abbey Bt	1000+	-1	55	145	
1,000 Abbey L	100+	-1	55	145	
1,000 Bank Of Ire	100+	-1	55	145	
1,000 Bnp Paribas	100+	-1	55	145	
1,000 Bnp Paribas A	100+	-1	55	145	
1,000 Bnp Paribas B	100+	-1	55	145	
1,000 Bnp Paribas C	100+	-1	55	145	
1,000 Bnp Paribas D	100+	-1	55	145	
1,000 Bnp Paribas E	100+	-1	55	145	
1,000 Bnp Paribas F	100+	-1	55	145	
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1,000 Bnp Paribas X	100+	-1	55	145	
1,000 Bnp Paribas Y	100+	-1	55	145	
1,000 Bnp Paribas Z	100+	-1	55	145	
BREWERIES, PUBS & RESTAURANTS					
10,200 Bass	1000+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Bass Bt	1000+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Bass L	1000+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Bass P	1000+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Bass T	1000+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Bass W	1000+	-1	55	145	
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10,200 Bass V	1000+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Bass W	1000+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Bass X	1000+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Bass Y	1000+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Bass Z	1000+	-1	55	145	
BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION					
10,200 Airtex	200+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Amico	200+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Amico Bt	200+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Amico C	200+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Amico D	200+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Amico E	200+	-1	55	145	
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10,200 Amico I	200+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Amico J	200+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Amico K	200+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Amico L	200+	-1	55	145	
10,200 Amico M					

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# Burton expected to show plum results

## COMPANIES

**BURTON GROUP:** These are likely to be the last results from the high street fashion retailer led by John Hoerner, chief executive, before it demerges Debenhams.

Full-year figures on Thursday are likely to be impressive, showing pre-tax profits growing from £151.6 million to £186 million, a rise of 23 per cent, while earnings per share grow from 7.8p to 9.3p.

When the demerger was announced the group gave a rundown of sales in the 18 weeks to July, showing a decline in overall sales from 11.3 per cent in the first half to 9.7 per cent overall. It also became clear that the disparity between Debenhams and the multiples was starting to grow. Debenhams had grown from 9.4 per cent in the first half to 10.4 per cent in the second with the multiples slipping from 5.8 per cent to 1.5 per cent. The dividend will grow from 2.8p to 3.3p.

**ALLIED DOMECO:** The first signs of a revival in the group's spirits business combined with the steady introduction of concept pubs should provide a useful boost to overall profits when full-year figures are published tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in towards the top end of a range of between £590 million and £610 million. That compares with £575 million last year. Earnings per share should also achieve double-digit growth of around 13 per cent at 37.4p.

NatWest Markets, the broker, says the geographical ex-

posure of the spirits business is favourable. Europe is recovering but the US remains flat. The group has limited exposure to the Asian markets.

The main thrust to profits growth should again come from the retail operations, in particular the managed pubs. The group has spent a considerable sum developing the Frikim, Scruffy Murphy and Big Steak pub chains. The payout is expected to be pegged at 23.5p a share.

**BAA:** Strong growth in traffic numbers should help to boost first-half results due today. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at £320 million compared with £304 million last year, while earnings a share should have grown by around 7 per cent from 22.2p to 23.7p.

The group's performance will have been held back by the termination of capitalisation on interest relating to the Terminal 5 project and the rebalancing of peak charges.

This will depress profits to the tune of £20 million. Passenger numbers during the first half grew 7.2 per cent to 31.1 million although retail income per passenger remained flat. Revenues should have grown by 15 per cent to £853 million.

The group is pursuing a four-year programme of smoothing peak and off-peak traffic charges. This will produce £15 million shortfall in the first half - although the second half should benefit by the equivalent amount.

An increase of 10 per cent in the dividend to almost 5p is envisaged.

*Little Jack Hoerner,  
Sat in a corner...*



John Hoerner will reveal probably Burton's last results before Debenhams is taken out

after the revision of contracts with BNL.

**BRITISH ENERGY:** The benefits of the group's ability to squeeze more electricity out of its eight power stations will have been offset by lower Pool prices, which fell 8 per cent year-on-year. Interim figures on Wednesday are expected to show reduced losses of £31 million compared with £53

million last time. This translates into an improvement in the loss a share from 4.6p to 2.8p. Despite the losses brokers are forecasting an increase in the interim payout from 4.6p to 4.8p.

The drive is on to cut costs in all areas; this should be most noticeable in fuel reprocessing

£165 million accompanied by a 12 per cent rise in earnings a share from 25.2p to 28.1p.

It should be achieved with a combination of modest revenue growth and reduced costs in both maintenance and overall group costs. But the figures are unlikely to be accompanied by any property revaluation or balance sheet restructuring. The group has made efforts to improve performance, with a 5 per cent reduction in delays already recorded. The payout should grow 10 per cent to 8p net.

**SOUTH WEST WATER:** Things have certainly changed for the group. Last year it had just seen off bids from rivals Wessex and Severn Trent. Interim figures on Thursday will provide the group with the opportunity to outline its own strategy.

Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at £70 million, an increase of £5 million on the corresponding period. But earnings are expected to decline 8 per cent from 51.6p a share to 47.7p. The group's regulated operations should exceed assumptions made by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission back in 1995 while its non-regulated should show a useful improvement.

The payout is likely to be 11 per cent higher at 13.1p.

**COMMERCIAL UNION:** A small improvement is envisaged in third-quarter numbers, due on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits should come in at £355 million, just £7 million higher than the corresponding period. Underwriting results will have improved with lower weather losses in the US offset by a decline in Britain. Head-

line life profits are likely to have risen a modest 9 per cent but underlying growth should be nearer 25 per cent while investment income declines 13 per cent because of adverse currency movements, rising interest rates and claims payments.

**GENERAL ACCIDENT:** Third-quarter numbers tomorrow will show a better performance than rival CU, with pre-tax profits poised to grow 21 per cent to £379 million. Earnings per share are also likely to be sharply higher, with brokers forecasting a rise of one third to 58.6p.

The improvement in underwriting should come from lower weather losses in the US and Canada accompanied by a turnaround from London after the withdrawal from unprofitable areas.

A 25 per cent increase in life profits reflects the absence of restructuring charges, lower costs and strong underlying growth. But investment income is likely to prove flat.

**THE ENERGY GROUP:** Interim results on Wednesday will be overshadowed by the imminent result of the MMC inquiry into PacifiCorp's bid for the company. The report is likely to be delivered to Margaret Beckett's desk at the DTI next week.

Few surprises are envisaged, with pre-tax profits just 2 per cent ahead at £144.7 million while earnings per share will have grown 5 per cent to 19.7p.

Shareholders will be rewarded with a rise in the payout from 7.3p to 8.2p.

MICHAEL CLARK

## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

### TODAY

Interims: BAA, Cable & Wireless Communications, Crickley Group, Filofax Group, Oriental Restaurant Group, Plasmon, Renold, Finals: Carr's Milling, Sidlaw Group, UK Estates, Economic statistics: October producer prices.

### TOMORROW

Interims: General Accident, John Lusty Group, Nycomed Aesthetica, Sedgwick Group, (G) Whiteman and Mann, WIT Group, Finals: Allied Domecq, Bett Brothers, Scottish Value Trust, Wardle Storers, Economic statistics: British Retail Consortium, October retail sales survey, October retail prices index.

### WEDNESDAY

Interviews: Berry Birch & No. 1 British Energy, Business Post Group, Capital Gearing Trust, Commercial Union (G), Electrocopments, Energy Group, Oxford Instruments, SAB Breweries, Staveley Industries, Volex Group, Waddington, Finals: Gremlins Group, Hamleys, Economic statistics: September average earnings, unit wage costs, October unemployment, Bank of England quarterly inflation report, minutes of October Bank of England monetary policy committee meeting.

### THURSDAY

Interims: Bank of Ireland, Porter Chadburn, Property Partnerships, Railtrack, Relational Properties, Tapa Group, South West Water, Phoenix, British Group, James Dickie, Euro Disney, Majedie Investments.

### FRIDAY

Interviews: Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, Economic statistics: Confederation of British Industry regional trends survey.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

### Markets prepare for US rate rise

The threat of a US interest rate rise on Wednesday will dominate the markets this week. Stronger than expected labour market data at the end of last week revived fears of an immediate increase, although the Fed could stay away from unsettling the markets further after recent heavy falls.

If the Fed opts for no change, economists will turn to the retail sales data on Friday, to see if some of the heat is coming out of the economy. MMS International, the economics consultancy, predicts no increase in monthly sales growth for October after September's 0.3 per cent rise.

In the UK, the Bank of England's inflation report, also due to be published on Wednesday, should help to clarify the Bank's thinking on the interest rate outlook after last week's shock rise.

The inflation statistics could well provide some reassurance. The market expects

headline inflation on Tuesday to remain unchanged at 3.6 per cent, while underlying inflation could edge closer to the Government's target figure, coming in at 2.6 per cent.

The producer prices figures published today, should also show pipeline inflationary pressures remaining subdued. Raw material prices are forecast to decline at an annual rate of 8 per cent, compared with 7.8 per cent in September, as strong sterling continues to keep the lid on prices. But factory-gate prices are expected to show a modest increase from 1.4 per cent to 1.5 per cent.

However, stronger than expected labour market data could revive fears of further rate rises. MMS predicts that unemployment will fall by 20,000 but average earnings will climb above the Bank's upper-target figure of 4.5 per cent to 4.75 per cent.

The inflation statistics could well provide some reassurance. The market expects

ALASDAIR MURRAY

## CHANGE ON WEEK

### US STOCK MARKET

#### FT 30 share

3106.3 (-17.5)

#### FTSE 100

4784.3 (-78.0)

#### New York Dow Jones

7581.32 (+139.24)

#### Tokyo Nikkei Average

15836.36 (-822.58)

### WORD WATCHING

#### Answers from page 38

#### PIGBORN

(a) A wind instrument with a single reed and a horn attached to each end. It is played (with difficulty) in Wales and other Celtic lands, where it continued to be called a pibgorn until the 19th century.

#### COCK TREAD

(b) An opaque speck or germlike vesicle on the surface of the yolk in an impregnated egg. Linné's household advice, 1752: "Take the whites of eggs not breaking them in any wise but take out the cock tread."

#### SYRinx

(b) Birdsong is produced in the syrinx, which is a slight enlargement at the lower end of the trachea. A pair of membranes have muscles, which alter the tension on them, thus varying the pitch of the sound.

#### HOCKET

(c) The breaking of a melody into single notes or very short phrases. Much used in 13th and 14th centuries, both for instruments and voices, where one sings while the other rests.

#### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rxc2 2 Ra4 (2 Qxc2 Qxd4+ wins the rook on a7) 2... Rxf2 3 Rxc2 Rxf4

and White is helpless against the twin threats of ... Qd5 and ... Rxd4.

## BALTIMORE FUNDS

### SHORTS (under 5 years)

1991 Issue 4/94 1990

1992 Issue 5/94 1990

1993 Issue 6/94 1990

1994 Issue 7/94 1990

1995 Issue 8/94 1990

1996 Issue 9/94 1990

1997 Issue 10/94 1990

1998 Issue 11/94 1990

1999 Issue 12/94 1990

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2001 Issue 2/95 1990

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2006 Issue 7/95 1990

2007 Issue 8/95 1990

2008 Issue 9/95 1990

2009 Issue 10/95 1990

2010 Issue 11/95 1990

2011 Issue 12/95 1990

2012 Issue 1/96 1990

2013 Issue 2/96 1990

2014 Issue 3/96 1990

2015 Issue 4/96 1990

2016 Issue 5/96 1990

2017 Issue 6/96 1990

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2019 Issue 8/96 1990

2020 Issue 9/96 1990

2021 Issue 10/96 1990

2022 Issue 11/96 1990

2023 Issue 12/96 1990

2024 Issue 1/97 1990

2025 Issue 2/97 1990

2026 Issue 3/97 1990

2027 Issue 4/97 1990

2028 Issue 5/97 1990

2029 Issue 6/97 1990

2030 Issue 7/97 1990

2031 Issue 8/97 1990

2032 Issue 9/97 1990

2033 Issue 10/97 1990

2034 Issue 11/97

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## THE FACTS

Market cap: £22 billion. Total revenue: £5.75 billion. Pre-tax profit: £2.5 billion. Group assets: £147 billion. Total return to shareholders: 35 per cent. Capital base: tier 1 ratio 6.5 per cent. Employees (worldwide): 82,000. Businesses: Personal and corporate banking, mortgages, insurance and credit cards, stockbroking and commercial banking.

## THE BOARD

Sir Brian Pitman, chairman. Chief executive for 14 years before his elevation to chairman in February. Has been with Lloyds man and boy, having joined in 1952. Peter Ellwood, group chief executive. Formerly chief executive of TSB, he is said to be on exactly the same wavelength as Sir Brian. A former chief executive of Barclaycard, he is also chairman of Visa International. Sir Nicholas Goodison, deputy chairman. A former stockbroker who was TSB chairman and chairman of the London Stock Exchange for 20 years. John T. Davies, deputy chairman. Another long-time employee of Lloyds Bank after joining straight from school. He is also chairman of the Office of the Banking Ombudsman. Alan Moore, deputy chief executive and the bank's treasurer. He has been with Lloyds since 1980. A former director-general of the Bahrain Monetary Agency. Andrew Longhurst, director of customer finance. Took a seat on the board as compensation for his loss of office as chief executive of Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, acquired by Lloyds Bank in 1994.

Non-executive directors: Sir David Pashley, the former chairman of Vickers and Invesco, as well as the former deputy chairman of Guinness and Bupa. Charles de la Verneuil, former committee and west deputy chairman of TSB Group from 1991 to 1995. Sir Ian Prosser, chairman and chief executive of Bass. Also sits on the Boots board. Sir Michael Quinlan, formerly permanent secretary at the Department of Employment and Ministry of Defence. He is a non-executive director of Pilkington.

Ten years ago, Lloyds Bank was, quite literally, the dark horse of the high street, placed well down the field behind the other Big Four banks. Since then, it has pulled clear of the pack and arguably now sets the pace for the other runners.

Much of the credit for this change in fortunes rests at the door of Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds Bank for almost 14 years and its chairman since February. In banking circles, his achievement has become enshrined as the "Pitman model".

Simply put, the Pitman model dictates that banks should stick to the knitting, and only profitable knitting at that. They should aim to be the best in their chosen markets, and if they cannot reasonably hope to be the best, then they should withdraw. So, while Barclays and NatWest ventured into investment banking with less than profitable results, Lloyds TSB kept its eye firmly on the high street.

Acquisitions have been a key plank in this strategy. After failing to net the over-stretched Midland Bank in 1992 after its disastrous foray into America — the bank fell to HSBC Holdings — Lloyds sparked off the demutualisation process by buying Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society for £1.8 billion in 1994. The deal boosted the bank's share of the mortgage market to almost 10 per cent.

But the most important deal was the merger with TSB, announced in late 1995. This paper-based transaction formed a combined group with a market capitalisation of £13 billion and 15 million customers, and created the largest branch network in the country. TSB shareholders picked up close to £1 billion with Standard Chartered.

Lloyds, however, seeks to portray its focus on the UK retail market as one of deliberate intent. What is beyond dispute is the profitability of this strategy. Over the past two years, the bank's share price has almost quadrupled and earnings per share have grown 65 per cent faster than the market as a whole. In 1996 alone, its share price increased by 30 per cent, against 12 per cent for the FTSE All-share index. Including dividends, shareholders received a 35 per cent return on their investment. Once the ugly duckling, Lloyds became the darling of the financial sector.

Sir Brian Pitman has yielded his position as chief executive to his £1.07 billion and again in 1989.

second-in-command, Peter Ellwood, an old TSB hand. But there will be no change of strategy. Mr Ellwood has made plain that he intends to follow his predecessor's line. "There are three strategic themes. First, to be the leader in our chosen markets, and in

terms of profits and profitability, not just size. Secondly, to be the first choice for our 15 million customers, largely through improved use of technology. And thirdly, to drive down our annual operational costs from £3.8 billion to £3.4 billion by 1999," he says.

"Lloyd's management have distinguished themselves by initiating most of the industry's major themes over the last two years. These are the retreat from overseas markets, cost-cutting, horizontal integration through TSB, and vertical integration with Cheltenham & Gloucester and Abbey Life. The result is that Lloyd's is now perhaps the best retail financial services company in Europe." — James Hamilton, Credit Lyonnais, Paris.

"Lloyd's has focused on a consumer financial services business. It hasn't got caught up in some of the traps that other banks have. It made a great strategic deal in its merger with TSB." — James Hamilton, Credit Lyonnais, Paris.

"The company has a long-term record of high returns to shareholders. It has certainly been one of the main drivers of consolidation in the UK financial services industry. We think there are further benefits to come from its strategy." — John Leonard, Salomon Brothers.

## CORPORATE



Sir Brian Pitman, left, made the black horse bank a frontrunner with a strategy that involved taking over the TSB, headed by Sir Nicholas Goodison and Peter Ellwood, and Cheltenham & Gloucester, led by Andrew Longhurst. Now Lloyds TSB is facing the challenge of newcomers such as Sainsbury's and C&G.

is a possibility in the absence of a suitable acquisition target, although the preferred route would be to buy a life insurer to complement its Abbey Life operation, or a mortgage provider. Lloyds TSB has less than a 10 per cent share in both markets, so an acquisition would avoid a run-in with the competition authorities.

City analysts and some institutional investors envisage a more ambitious acquisition. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson says Lloyds TSB could digest a company as large as Abbey National or Prudential. The latter is known to have begun merger talks with NatWest, only to abandon them because of a difference over strategy. Other names in the frame are Nationwide, the largest mutual building society, and the Norwich Union.

While not ruling out acquisitions on the Continent, Mr Ellwood is more concerned with beefing up the bank's entire distribution channels. The deals struck with Asda and the Post Office give some indication of his thinking.

Reforms are needed in areas such as ethical expression, for which Integrity Works, an independent analyst, rates Lloyds TSB a dismal 4½ out of 10. The bank relies primarily upon its report and accounts and its community report to convey its ethical standards. This falls short of best practice for ethical expression, not least because the information is unconsolidated.

Boardroom pay is an issue. Sir Brian received total remuneration of £2.7 million in 1996, against a more realistic level of £2.2 million, according to Crisp Consulting, which also criticises the number of non-executives — 16 against a recommended maximum of seven. Their average pay was 10 per cent above the average industry level.

RICHARD MILES

Ethical expression	4½/10
Financial record	9/10
Share performance	10/10
Attitude to employees	7/10
Strength of brand	7/10
Innovation	8/10
Annual reports	9/10
City star rating	10/10
Future prospects	9/10
Total	75½/100
Total	

Editorial policy is evaluated by *Financial Times*. The Fiduciary quotient, in which best boardroom pay practices across high street, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

## PW and C&amp;L merger vote planned

BY ROBERT BRUCE

PROPOSALS to merge Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand to form what could become the world's largest accountancy firm were sent to their partners at the weekend.

More than 1,000 partners in the UK and a further 7,500 worldwide will be asked to vote on the proposals by the end of the month.

The proposals present the business case for a merger. It is also hoped they will allay

the next steps in the process of assuming the vote, which requires high majorities around the world, is in favour.

Partners face two questions on which they have to vote. The first, effectively, is: Do we want to merge into a global integrated firm? The second covers the domestic situation, country by country. The result of the vote will be announced early next month.

The proposals do not, inevi-

tably, suggest that there will be any losses of partners. A spokesman for Coopers & Lybrand said that there would be no losses. "We are under-resourced at the moment. We are recruiting like mad." In the UK, Coopers & Lybrand has 592 partners at present and Price Waterhouse 444.

The result of the vote will have a significant influence on the proposed mega-merger of Ernst & Young and KPMG.

## City bonuses set to reach £1bn

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CITY executives could pocket up to £1 billion in bonus payments this year in spite of the turbulence on the world's stock markets over the past few weeks.

Russell Reynolds Associates, an executive recruitment firm, expects bonus payments to be 20 per cent to 30 per cent higher than in 1996, when investment bankers and fund managers received an estimated £750 million.

The intense competition between banks for top talent has become a global affair, pushing up pay packages to unprecedented levels in all international financial centres, says Russell Reynolds Associates.

In specialist fields such as high-yield and emerging markets, bonuses could exceed 50

per cent. Demand for senior equity research analysts, particularly in technology, media and health, has reached an all-time high.

Elaine Small, managing director, says: "Banks and broking houses are defending their territory at all costs, which naturally feeds a cycle of offers and even higher counter offers. The reality is that the high cost of replacing top talent makes generous compensation a sound defensive strategy."

But Ms Small says the pay increases are largely confined to top performers, even though the "star system" has been blamed for City scandals such as the £450 million Peter Young affair at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell last year and Nick Leeson's single-handed destruction of Barings.

Keep our opinions to yourself.

## Levitt tussle goes on

BY JON ASHWORTH

LAWYERS for Roger Levitt, the former financial services salesman, return to the High Court tomorrow in their continuing efforts to prevent his extradition from America.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is seeking to prosecute him for allegedly misleading inspectors during an investigation into International Boring Corporation (IBC), based in London.

It is alleged that Mr Levitt served as a shadow director of IBC in breach of a seven-year disqualification order imposed in 1993, three years after his financial services group collapsed with debts of £54

million. Tomorrow's hearing will deal with an application for further directions. A full hearing into the legality of the extradition move has been fixed for November 21.

Mr Levitt, who moved to New York with his family last year, was arrested and subsequently released on \$1 million bail after it emerged that the charge — furnishing a false explanation of documents — is not an extraditable offence under the US-UK extradition treaty.

Mr Levitt's lawyers accused the DTI of misleading the court in New York and London in its eagerness to secure his return.

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

## REWARDING TIMES

## PLAY £200,000 PORTFOLIO

£1,000 TO BE WON TODAY — TURN TO THE EQUITY PRICES, PAGE 43

Start playing new Portfolio, an exciting opportunity to play the stock market without getting your fingers burnt. You can win £1,000 a day six days a week in *The Times*, and you can play every Sunday in *The Sunday Times* to win £2,000. Better still, there is a £1,000 weekly prize, if you play Portfolio in both papers, seven days a week. Playing Portfolio is easy and fun. Every week companies' share prices go up and down in the real world of the Stock Exchange. So you can experience the excitement of the stock market swings, but without the risks.

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- On each individual Portfolio gamecard there are eight numbers printed in a grid.
- These numbers represent eight out of 44 companies listed on the Portfolio panel (see Equity Prices, page 43).
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- The 44 companies are taken from the hundreds whose names are listed on *The Times* Equity Prices page every day.
- Simply check the share price movement (+ or -) of your eight Portfolio shares.
- When you have checked all eight share movements and entered them on to the Portfolio panel on page 43 add them up to obtain your plus or minus total.
- When adding up your total, ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... equals no change).

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Claim to attrac...





Sir Colin Marshall, left, and Adair Turner on the FA stand at the CBI conference, lending their support to England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup

## EMU debate has turned up the heat on 'Red' Adair

**Philip Bassett** on how the political stance of the Director-General of the CBI has upset former allies

**R**ed Adair is the 1970s

putting out fires on blazing offshore oil rigs. For the Conservatives, at least now, "Red" Adair means someone else the head of the Confederation of British Industry.

Adair, the Director-General of the CBI, whose annual conference opens in Birmingham this morning, is taking the heat from the Tories over European economic and monetary union. Since the Conservatives decided to oppose Britain's participation in EMU business, at least as represented by the CBI, and the Tories have been on opposite sides of the fence.

Some Tories see the fact that so many Labour ministers will be at the CBI's conference — Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, David Blunkett and Margaret Beckett — as clear evidence that Turner and the CBI are sucking up to Labour. CBI conferences always feature a large number of ministers. The difficulty for the Tories is that the ministers now are Labour, rather than Conservatives.

William Hague, the Tory leader, will today liken the CBI to "lemmings" over its embracing of EMU. He said yesterday that he was not picking fight with the CBI, but wanted to talk to them as a "candid friend".

By contrast, the CBI's

Turner has nothing but praise for Hague. He said: "I disagree with William on some aspects of policy — for example, monetary union — but I like and respect him. He's intelligent, he's a good speaker and he's very determined. I would counsel anyone not to undermine him."

Turner, 42, goes back a long way with Hague. In the early 80s, they worked together at McKinsey's, the blue chip management consultants. Hague was the junior member of one of Turner's teams, spending his first three weeks feeding data into a computer, only to be told by Turner that because of a computing problem all his work was wrong and would have to be redone.

Another McKinsey's colleague was Howard Davies, Turner's predecessor as head of the CBI, and now chairman of the Financial Services Authority. In coming after Davies — although he was a tough Owenite, rather than a soggy liberal. Since the SDF imploded, he has been a member of no party, and sees himself now as a classic 19th-century Liberal — a believer in free markets and free trade, but equally of opportunity too.

**T**urner makes clear the CBI's support for a number of Conservative policies, such as their opposition to the European social chapter and to a minimum wage. He details the CBI's opposition to some key Labour policy initiatives, such as its proposals to reform competition policy, which the CBI describes as "draconian". But like other representative and lobbying bodies, the CBI needs to align itself with power. If the choice is between power and politics, then however uncomfortable the decision — it has been particularly so for the CBI's chairman, the Conservative-supporting Sir Colin Marshall, though he has played a scrupulously non-political part in doing the job — the business outcome is always likely to favour power. The CBI's conference will do no more than reflect that reality.

With Labour aiming openly for a minimum of two terms in office, relations with Labour

or with the catch-all reply, "Sorry, the information is commercially confidential". Cynical disingenuity reigns supreme.

However, such reticence does not prevent Thames Water from spending tens of thousands of pounds inserting full-page repeat advertisements in the national broadsheet newspapers, telling the population it is carrying out what its directors and executives are paid very handsomely.

### Using energy wisely

**From Mr Anthony G. Phillips** Sir, Just a few days ago President Clinton was being berated for seemingly reneging on America's commitment to reduce global warming. Are we not also guilty?

We now learn ("Utilities agree on joint £200m gas-fired plant", October 28) that electricity companies are to build two gas-fired power stations and we also learn that a rail company is to introduce much faster trains on the West Coast

planner, and, as a result, Turner spent much of his boyhood in various "new towns", as they were then. That might have prepared him for the brutal architecture of the CBI's Centre Point headquarters — a long-running financial nightmare for the CBI, having taken on a huge amounts of now unnecessary and costly space when it moved there in 1979, an issue which Turner is now addressing. His deal to buy out the majority of the lease is risky — it places the CBI's finances into the red and is being funded by advance subscription payments from 70 big member firms — but he is finally dealing with a problem which all his predecessors have failed to address.

Business leaders are all over the new Labour Government — serving on taskforces, heading reviews, becoming civil servants. However, Turner defines that the CBI and business are now too close. But over EMU, the CBI is unquestionably in line with Labour, though not completely. The CBI disagrees with Labour's timing, insisting that Britain may well be ready to take part in monetary union in 2002, rather than at some point after the next election, as the Government is saying.

Given Mr Hague's EMU policy, that means the CBI and the Conservatives are seeing their biggest ever difference, or as Turner puts it, with perhaps a little too much understatement: "We are in disagreement." Given that the Tories are traditionally the party to which business has given its support, that's unquestionably hard for some Conservatives and some business leaders to take.

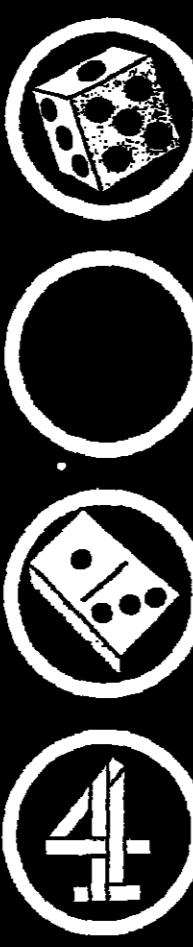
The result is heat — heat from Hague, heat from some CBI members such as the Dixons chairman Sir Stanley Kalms, who is translating his own fierce opposition to EMU to an attack on the CBI's representativeness on the issue, and on the pro-European "coterie" around Turner. Fighting real fires was the job of Turner's namesake, fighting the political and business fires being fanned by the EMU debate is also warm work.



Kalms: fierce opposition

## Nobody told them it's only a game

**Movers and Shakers**  
A look at the intense world of indoor games



Tonight  
8.00pm

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 10 1997

### TELEVISION CHOICE

## Backgammon to the fore

Movers and Shakers

Channel 4, 8.00pm

This six-part series introduces us to people who like to spend their spare hours moving counters and shaking dice. We are in the world of indoor games, which are apparently more popular than outdoor sports, and the first to feature is backgammon. Those of us who have never tried it may struggle to see the fascination in what looks like a fairly tedious board game, but the film does its best to persuade us otherwise. Its central character is Mark, a cocky 14-year-old who is exceptionally good at backgammon but lets everybody know it. The appeal is not just in watching, but in getting on the people. Unusually in school, Mark has abandoned his A levels and announces that he intends to make gammoning his profession. He is lucky in having a wealthy father to bail him out if things go wrong.

Spark

BBC1, 8.30pm

You cannot blame Roy Clarke for recycling the theme of his greatest hit *Life Last of the Summer Wine*, his new comedy centre on boozey women and institutional men. There is one difference, in that the central character here is called Ashley (James Fleet). All the life he has been under the thumb of a domineering mother, which helps to explain why he is in his fifties and unmatched. But, as the series opens, and page her clops and this leaves the dithering Ashley free to find himself a wife. But the running joke of the series, which from the early evidence is a shade bland and predictable, is that Ashley is destined to remain single. His long-standing girlfriend is dull, plain and solidly unromantic and while a succession of beautiful women cross Ashley's path, he is too socially gauche to take advantage.

Officers and Gentlemen

BBC2, 8.30pm

The eve of Remembrance Day is the occasion for a timely look at the Chelsea Pensioners, veterans of battle now reunited in old age. The Royal Hospital, founded by Charles II, is the grand residence of these old soldiers whose red coats and three-cornered hats often make them look like something



Jan Francis, James Fleet (BBC1, 8.30pm)

devised by the British Tourist Authority. But get them talking about their wars and they present a very different picture. It takes a very old man to remember the First World War, but Francis Sumner (born in 1897) can and his recall is totals. The Western Front emerges as every bit as dreadful as its reputation; there is no revisionism here. More surprising, however, are the of the Second World War and present the ordinary soldier's often sardonic corrective to the triumphalist commentaries of the newsreels.

Equinox: Losing It

Channel 4, 9.00pm

One of the puzzles for the spectator is why sportspeople can mix brilliant performances with failure. In 1990 Steve Backley, the javelin thrower, smashed the world records. A year later he failed to qualify for the world championships. The bad luck of Lee Chapman was a flop at Arsenal, but the league's top goalecoper at Leeds United. But the legerdemain has attracted the attention of sport psychologists and their findings form the core of the film. The proposition is that the difference between winning and losing is all in the mind. Some sportspeople crack under pressure, others manage to shut it out. The key is total mental control. Go into your event in a state of inner calm and shut everything else out. Sally Gunnell and Greg Rusedski are among those providing the evidence.

Peter Waymark

### RADIO CHOICE

The Club That Matt Built

Radio 5 Live, 7.30pm

This is the second of three programmes about great football managers, and it arrives at a time when Manchester United are making most of their rivals in England and in Europe look like entrants in a competition to come second. Matt Busby built not one but three United teams that distinguished themselves, the best two being the so-called Busby Babes of the middle 1950s. A team cruelly destroyed in the Munich air disaster of 1958, and the team that, complete with Law, Best and Charlton, won the European Cup a decade later. Archie McPhee is the presenter for what is a friendly but vigorous portrait of a man who seemed, on the couple of occasions I met him, to be just that: friendly but vigorous.

### RADIO 1

5.00am Kevin Greening and Zeb Bell 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley, includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Reddick 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Live Music with Briggy Smalls 8.40 Andy Kershaw 10.30 The MOBO Awards, Lisa Lamou and Trevor Nelson report from this year's Music of Black Origins Awards, live from the Connaught Rooms 10.00 Club Culture 11.00 Club Moves 12.15 Brief Update 12.30 Seven Days 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsbeat 1.30 Newsbeat 2.00 Newsbeat 2.30 Frankenstein 2.45 World News 3.00 (crim) News 3.00 (pol) News 3.00 Sports Roundup 3.15 Brief Update 3.30 Newsbeat 3.45 The Street Show 4.00 News 4.15 Seven Days 4.30 The World Today 5.00 News in German 5.00 Westway Access 6.00 Sports Roundup 6.15 Newsbeat 10.30 Omibus 11.00 Newsbeat 11.30 Newsbeat 12.00 Newsbeat 12.30 Frankenstein 12.45 Brief Update 12.55 Seven Days 12.55 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsbeat 2.00 News 2.30 Cutback 2.45 Frankenstein 2.55 World News 3.00 (crim) News 3.00 (pol) News 3.00 Sports 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## COMPANIES 45

Plum results expected from Burton

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

## Nike audit uncovers health hazards at factory

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AN INTERNAL audit for Nike, the multinational sports goods company, has found that employees at its shoe factory near Ho Chi Minh City, in Vietnam, work in profoundly unhealthy conditions, and that a majority of workers suffer from respiratory problems caused by a prolonged exposure to toluene and other carcinogens.

The audit's findings have forced Nike to make a public "clarification". The audit said the Tae Kwang Vina factory "lacks adequate safety equipment and training, encourages excess overtime, and exposes workers to hazardous chemicals, noise, heat and dust".

The report, prepared for Nike by Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm, revealed that the presence of carcinogens in the factory's air exceeded the permissible local legal standards by 177 times. Vietnamese standards are reported to be four times as strict as US ones.

The report also said workers at the site owned by a South Korean subcontractor, were forced to work 65 hours a week, 15 hours more than Vietnamese labour law allows. The average wage was reported to be \$10 a week.

Vada Manager, a Nike spokesman, said: "We believe that we look after the interests of our workers. There's a growing body of documentation that indicates that Nike workers earn superior wages, and they manufacture products under superior conditions."

He said the company had executed an "action plan" to improve working conditions at the Tae Kwang Vina plant since the report was received by the management. Mr Manager said Nike had "cut overtime sharply, improved pay and ventilation, and reduced the use of toxic chemicals".

"This shows our system of monitoring works," he said. "We have uncovered these issues clearly before anyone else, and we have moved fairly expeditiously to correct them."



An audit found that Nike's Tae Kwang Vina factory "lacks adequate safety equipment... and exposes workers to hazardous chemicals, noise, heat and dust".

## CBI and TUC to agree union rights proposals

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S business and trade union leaders are to propose to the Government a three-year freeze on ballots on trade union recognition if first attempts to win a union deal fail.

The proposal is one of the key recommendations to be put to Tony Blair by a joint Confederation of British Industry and Trade Union Congress working party on trade union recognition — giving unions statutory rights to collective bargaining.

Senior CBI and TUC officials are currently drawing up a final document on the proposals of the working party, which was set up after Mr Blair asked the two organi-

sations to see if they could narrow the differences between them on the issue before the Government legislated.

Details of the proposals will be sent within the next fortnight to Ian McCartney, Industry Minister, who will incorporate them into the Government's White Paper on fairness at work, which is due to be published early next year.

The proposals, revealed by *The Times* today as the CBI's annual conference in Birmingham debates employment issues, include agreement that:

■ Provision for ballots on union recognition must also include the opportunity for employers to ballot on union derecognition — removing unions from an organisation.

■ In the case of ballots on recognition or derecognition, there should be a period of

time — the CBI and TUC favour three years — before a repeat ballot is held, to avoid large numbers of votes in any single organisation.

The joint proposals will also include ideas from the CBI and the TUC where the two sides have been unable to agree. Not only does this include the overall question of statutory trade union recognition, to which the employers would not agree though they want to make it work as well as possible in practice, but it includes the thorny technical question of what is the "appropriate" bargaining unit to be covered by recognition.

The TUC is insisting that this should be determined by an independent representation agency. The CBI is saying that it should be determined by the employer concerned, in

line with its own business structures. The employers are also saying that legislation should not try to define how large or how small the bargaining unit should be.

The CBI is also arguing that there should be a "discernible" threshold of support for union recognition in a business before a ballot is called, though they are not specifying what that threshold level should be. Unions oppose this proposal.

The TUC is also arguing a further proposal from the CBI that small firms should be excluded from the provisions of the legislation, though they are not yet decided on what the cut-off should be in terms of the number of employees in a firm. But employers believe it would be ludicrous in, say, a three-man company if two voted for recognition and one

against that unions would then be recognised.

Employers do not believe that there should be a new law as the solution to all their problems of recruitment and membership. Unions accept that their best route to recognition is to persuade employers to give them a deal, rather than seek one through the law — and they are convinced that recognition law is vital.

The process of the CBI and TUC drawing up proposals on union recognition is the first time that Britain has operated European-style arrangements to try to get agreement from the two sides of industry, though it has operated in this case informally, rather than having a formal role under the law, as it does in Europe.

Debate turns up heat, page 50

## LOW NOTE 49

Roger Bootle on the Royal Opera House



## City braced for sharp shares drop in London

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CITY brokers are braced for another sharp fall in London share prices when they return to their desks this morning after Tokyo plunged by more than 4 per cent on Friday.

Equity strategists expect the wave of selling to continue as investors become increasingly unnerved by the financial turbulence spreading throughout the Far East.

Andy Hartwill, an economic strategist with Société Générale, said: "Undoubtedly it's going to be a shaky start. I won't be surprised if the stock market tests the 4,380 level again over the next few days."

The FTSE 100 closed down 99.5 points — just over 2 per cent — at 4,764 on Friday, unsettled by strong job data from the US and continuing unease in Japan and Hong Kong. The Hang Seng finished the day 3 per cent lower at 15,836.

The Dow Jones industrial average followed suit, tumbling 45 points in the first 20 minutes of trading, before bouncing back to close off 102 points. Markets in Brazil and Argentina experienced even sharper declines.

London investors will also be nervous over the prospects of higher interest rates in spite of the Bank of England's decision last week to raise the base rate 0.25 per cent, the fifth increase in as many months.

Many analysts expect interest rates to reach 8 per cent, against their current level of 7.25 per cent, before the Bank feels entirely comfortable about hitting its inflation targets.

The City will get better idea when the Bank publishes its quarterly inflation report on Wednesday.

Dealers also fear another rise in interest rates on the other side of the Atlantic.

The Federal Reserve Board meets on Wednesday to discuss the cost of borrowing, and some economists believe they could take their lead from Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of

England, and raise interest rates. The FTSE 100 is now more than 10 per cent lower than at the start of October, largely because of the turmoil in South-East Asia. UK financials are among those to have suffered most, especially banks with heavy exposure to Hong Kong such as HSBC Holdings and Standard Chartered.

## Barclays 'near to BZW deal'

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS is expected to finalise the sale of BZW's European operations to Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB), the Swiss-owned investment bank, within the next 48 hours.

Barring any hitches, CSFB will agree to buy the equities business and corporate finance arm of BZW, although it will pay less than the \$400 million price suggested last week.

BZW staff were briefed on the proposed deal at meetings at the weekend amid widespread unease at the way Martin Taylor, BZW's chief executive, has handled the sale.

Many BZW executives would have preferred a deal with Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette, the US investment bank that dropped out of the running just over a week ago. The sale attracted more than 20 bidders in all.

Concerns remain about the future of the back-office staff at BZW, as they appear to have been excluded from the CSFB proposal.

The Federal Reserve Board meets on Wednesday to discuss the cost of borrowing, and some economists believe they could take their lead from Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of

### NO 1247

ACROSS

6 Whip; one inflicting suffering (7)

7 Tiny pathogen (5)

9 General direction: fashion (5)

10 Bordeaux region (7)

11 Object of desire (6,2,3)

14 Acceptable money (5,6)

17 Elec. power rating (7)

19 Cowboy show (5)

21 Large stream (5)

22 Strength, effectiveness (7)

16 Bunch of 13s (4)

18 Unit of area; Israel city (4)

20 Dip (eg biscuit in tea) (4)

DOWN

1 Fish: unaccompanied (4)

2 Generous, wasteful (3)

3 Account book (6)

4 State firmly (4)

5 Change, hand over (8)

6 Location: sounds like vision (4)

8 Observing, given (that) (6)

11 Absconder (6)

12 Stubborn (9)

13 A plant, bloom (6)

15 Excused (from obligation) (9)

16 Bunch of 13s (4)

18 Unit of area; Israel city (4)

20 Dip (eg biscuit in tea) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1246

ACROSS: 1 Leprechaun 8 Bullion 9 Glade 10 Lope 11 Delirium 13 Baste 14 Least 16 Articles 17 Bend 20 Cloud 21 Tonic 22 Dover Beach

DOWN: 1 Libel 2 Pole position 3 Emit 4 Hanker 5 Ungainly 6 Latin America 7 Pelmet 12 Mercutio 13 Branch 15 Seethe 18 Dutch 19 Carb

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## Business attack over education

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS has delivered a stinging indictment of education standards, urging the Government to improve primary and secondary education to boost labour market flexibility.

In the Confederation of British Industry poll, companies complained about poor skills among school-leavers. The results of the CBI survey come amid widespread concern about skill shortages and about the launch of a taskforce by David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, aimed at improving employees' skills.

Some 43 per cent of businesses that responded to the survey said that practical numeracy among school-leavers was poor, while 40 per cent said communication skills — such as in information technology and some areas of building — has been ratheratcheting wage demands in some areas of the country.

The companies that responded to the survey urged the Government to make improving the quality of education its top priority for securing greater labour market flexibility.

man resources at the CBI said there are "serious pockets of skill shortages" in the country, although the general pattern is more encouraging. The scarcity of people with certain skills — such as in information technology and some areas of building — has been ratheratcheting wage demands in some areas of the country.

The companies that responded to the survey urged the Government to make improving the quality of education its top priority for securing greater labour market flexibility.

John Cridland, head of hu-

## Hill Samuel Life executives dismissed

RICHARD MILES  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ABBEY LIFE, the insurer owned by Lloyds TSB, has dismissed the entire senior management of Hill Samuel Life, its subsidiary.

The directors of Hill Samuel Life have been told they are being made redundant as part of a restructuring that will see the company's identity disappear by the end of this year.

Among the casualties are Brian Portman, chief executive, Wai Eu, finance director, Peter Morris, chief actuary, and Paul Clarke, human resources director. Their redundancies do not take effect until March 31, but some directors have left already after being told of their fate on Thursday.

Abbey Life recently wrote to policyholders outlining plans to dismantle Hill Samuel Life and absorb it within the wider group. Hill Samuel Life has been closed to new business for several years.

Lloyds TSB said that the jobs of the 400 workers at Hill Samuel were quite safe. The bank added that Hill Samuel Asset Management, its retail fund-management business, did not fall within the scope of the restructuring plan.

Hill Samuel, formerly one

## PAYING TOO MUCH FOR LIFE INSURANCE

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Barclays Life 35.40	86.00
Commercial Union 36.00	98.99
Frieds Provident 41.58	109.00
Pearl Assurance 44.00	111.20
Clerical Medical 45.50	111.54
London & Manchester 50.85	137.40
Scotish Life 58.51	152.16 pm

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